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Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXIV, No. 36

Thursday, May 8, 2003
Vaisakha 18, 1925 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 8, 2003/Vaisakha 18, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh are in a great distress. Discussion on the problems of farmers have been held not only once but several times in the House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Obituary reference has to be taken up first.

11.01/2 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Sudhakar Pandey.

Shri Sudhakar Pandey was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977 representing Chandauli Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Pandey was also a Member of Rajya Sabha from 1980 to 1986.

Shri Pandey was an able parliamentarian. He was a Member of Committee on Estimates from 1975 to 1976, and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table and Committee on Official Language from 1976 to 1977. He was also a Member of *Hindi Shiksha Samiti* during 1971 and the Court of Jawaharlal Nehru University from 1974 to 1977.

Shri Pandey was a veteran freedom fighter. He actively participated in India's struggle for independence and was also arrested in 1943.

As an active social worker, Shri Pandey played a pioneering role in the foundation of several institutions and societies for the welfare of the youth and destitute. He worked relentlessly for providing encouragement to artists, literateurs and for the promotion of new talents. He also served with distinction in various capacities in many academic, social and cultural institutions.

A man of letters, Shri Pandey took keen interest in literature, education, arts and culture. He authored several books. He was also conferred upon the *"Sahitya Varidhi"* award by *Hindi Sahitya Sammelan*, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Pandey was a Member of the Indian Delegation to the World Conference on Hindi in Mauritius.

Shri Sudhakar Pandey passed away on 18 April, 2003 at the age of 76 after a brief illness.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend, and I am sure, the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

Friends, on 7 May, 2003, 33 people were killed and several others injured by extremists in Tripura.

We deeply mourn the loss of lives of these people and condemn this barbaric act of terrorism. The House may place on record its deep sense of grief on this tragedy.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

11.03 hrs.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, several discussions took place on the issue of farmers and the Government also replied but no action was taken in pursuance of the replies given. Today the condition of sugarcane growers is really pitiable and the court's order have given them a severe blow. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji. I will listen to you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he always raises some issue or the other during the Question Hour. *...(Interruptions).* I have also given notice for raising an issue during the zero hour, I may also be given a chance to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Somaiya ji, the session is about to conclude. But the situation is serious because seven lakh quintal sugarcane is standing alone in Kushinagar and a small part in Deoria. Sugar mills have been closed down there. No sugar mill is in operation there. Only one or two sugar mills are running there and they are also on the verge of closure. Such a serious situation is prevailing there. At this juncture no one is prepared to take the sugarcane as fodder even. Now how that sugarcane would be utilized, it would get dried. Similarly, three years arrears of wheat growers is also pending. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh, your issue is very important but please listen to me first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Session is going to conclude tomorrow. You have always mounted pressure on the House to hold discussion on this issue, but it has achieved no results. Tomorrow the Session would conclude and the members of ruling party will leave for their tours or for recreation. *...(Interruptions)* Now please tell me what would be done for the farmers? Therefore, we seek your protection. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are right.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, such an instruction should be issued by which sugarcane growers and wheat growers could get their arrears and arrangements could be made for the sugarcane standing in the fields. I think now the Government will not procure wheat. *...(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, one thing I would like to bring to your notice that last year minimum support price for Sugarcane was announced Rs. 95 per quintal. *...(Interruptions)* and this year it is Rs. 82.50 and Rs. 85 per quintal. It has created acute resentment among the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you the chance to speak during zero Hour. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am looking at this issue. I have told the hon'ble Minister also. He will definitely come to the House as soon as he would be free. I have sent the message to him. I need not to repeat. I have told him now you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

11.06 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 663. Shri Maheshwar Singh.

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Question number 667 is also on the same subject. Therefore, both the questions may be clubbed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a suggestion that Q. No. 667 may be clubbed to this Question, that is, Q. No. 663. I have no objection, provided that the House agrees to it. I am taking both the Questions together.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds for Disabled

*663. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has not been able to utilize substantial amount sanctioned for the welfare of disabled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the break-up of amount allocated and utilised under this head during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the unutilised amount is being diverted for other purposes;

(d) if so, the measures adopted by the Government to check it and whether the Government propose to

formulate any contingent plan to maximise the utilization of the funds sanctioned for the disabled;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The budgetary allocation, revised estimates and expenditure in the disability sector in the last three years is indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	B.E.	R.E.	Expenditure	Percentage (Exp./R.E.)
2000-2001	261.66	258.11	246.65	95.56
2001-2002	261.89	274.32	271.78	99.07
2002-2003	236.41	222.44	224.37	100.87

The position is self-explanatory.

(c) to (f) The Ministry re-appropriates funds from one head to another as per the requirement of the scheme/ programme. In order to maximise utilisation of funds, periodical reviews are conducted at various levels to monitor the expenditure and corrective steps are taken by the Ministry and its organisations. Under-utilisation of funds, if any, inter alia, is due to the reasons of non-receipt of approval/concurrence from other Ministries/ Departments, complete proposals from implementing agencies not being received timely and budget estimates being reduced/enhanced as reflected in the revised estimates.

[English]

Schemes for Handicapped

*667. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the number of handicapped persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the number and details of schemes and programmes formulated for their upliftment by the Government; and

(d) the State-wise details of funds sanctioned, allocated and amount utilized for implementation of the said schemes during the last three years, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement showing the State-wise population of persons with disabilities as per the 1991 survey of National Sample Survey Organisation is given at Annexure I.

(c) The details are provided in Annexure II.

(d) State-wise details of funds sanctioned during the last three years for implementation of the schemes for the welfare of persons with disabilities is given at Annexure III. Under the Scheme to promote voluntary action and scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase and fitting of aids and appliances, funds are released only after utilization certificates in respect of grant released earlier are received. National Programme of Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities is a State sector scheme which was funded through grants from Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in 9th Plan. States are supposed to support this from their own resources thereafter.

Annexure I

State-wise details of physically disabled people as per the survey conducted by NSSO in 1991

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Estimated number of persons with disabilities (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.72
2.	Assam	2.71
3.	Bihar	13.61

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	6.95
5.	Haryana	3.04
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1.40
7.	Karnataka	8.76
8.	Kerala	5.56
9.	Madhya Pradesh	12.87
10.	Maharashtra	18.19
11.	Orissa	7.20
12.	Punjab	5.31
13.	Rajasthan	7.23
14.	Tamil Nadu	12.36
15.	Uttar Pradesh	25.50
16.	West Bengal	11.79
	All India	161.54

Note 1: Figures include (i) visual, (ii) hearing, (iii) speech and (iv) locomotor disability.

Note 2 : For the remaining States/UTs, results are not presented, as the sample size was not considered large enough to provide reliable estimates. However, the results presented at the All-India level include all the States/UTs. Around 2-3% of children between the age of 0-14 years were estimated to suffer from mental retardation. Figures regarding mentally ill are not known.

Annexure II

(1) Scheme for Promotion of Voluntary Actions for persons with disabilities: Grants in aid assistance is released to voluntary organizations for running special education and vocational training programmes, placement services, shelter workshops, home based services, etc.

(2) Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase and fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP).

(3) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides loans on soft terms through State Channalising Agencies to persons with disability for self-employment and income generating activities.

(4) National Institutes: There are six National/Apex Institutes under the aegis of the Ministry working for the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled as well as manpower development, research, etc.

(5) Scheme for setting up Composite Regional Centres for providing composite rehabilitation services and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities.

(6) District Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs), Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres (RRTCs) and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs): 11 DRCs have been set up to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disabled. 4 RRTCs have also been set up for training and manpower development in their field of rehabilitation, for DRCs. Over 132 districts in the country have been selected for setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres of which 82 are functional.

(7) National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) provides service delivery systems covering 74 districts throughout the country in rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(8) Science and Technology Project in Mission Mode for developing appropriate and innovative technological appliances for the benefit of disabled persons.

(9) National Trust for the Persons with Autism, Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy & Multiple Disabilities set up in 2000 extends support to registered organisations to provide need based services during periods of crisis in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians.

(10) Scheme for National Scholarship for persons with disabilities. The Ministry has introduced the Scheme of National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities from the year 2002-2003. 250 awards each for male students and female students in different categories of disabilities will be given for pursuing higher and technical education.

Annexure III

(Rs. in lacs)

State/UT	Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities			Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase and fitting of aids and appliances@		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1283.57	1151.64	1876.55	111.09	186.96	188.49
Arunachal Pradesh	6.32	18.98	16.06	—	1.95	—
Assam	40.11	51.41	62.05	—	2.25	2.00
Bihar	162.47	225.42	194.56	22.16	63.31	74.65
Chandigarh	6.57	5.22	4.95	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	9.08	12.49	8.82	—	7.54	34.32
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	1.53	0.00	—	—	—
Delhi	649.54	527.78	535.46	117.65	151.68	136.18
Goa	12.64	24.07	—	1.04	1.95	0.76
Gujarat	114.52	125.83	138.49	119.37	155.92	223.29
Haryana	95.44	73.42	132.21	121.37	21.86	100.17
Himachal Pradesh	15.85	24.49	22.16	98.29	6.25	18.25
Jammu & Kashmir	12.23	4.36	10.77	—	—	—
Jharkhand	—	7	20.94	—	1.00	4.00
Karnataka	640.58	658.89	898.92	5.00	75.78	76.89
Kerala	483.72	539.83	516.22	19.00	57.45	37.42
Madhya Pradesh	39.32	79.19	82.92	76.30	60.68	68.50
Maharashtra	197.99	209.39	275.37	47.13	18.50	56.25
Manipur	56.63	59.89	81.15	10.50	—	—
Meghalaya	46.38	60.1	51.67	—	—	—
Mizoram	29.52	30.06	29.67	—	—	8.00
Nagaland	2.83	1.78	0.00	—	—	—
Orissa	252.26	313.47	350.83	49.99	71.78	81.70
Pondicherry	6.59	5.85	6.13	—	—	—
Punjab	91.39	79.85	97.43	96.98	63.96	75.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan	93.99	155.81	139.57	360.00	382.92	481.99
Sikkim	—	1.94	5.67	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	396.07	426.57	573.12	61.27	104.23	108.42
Tripura	6.02	6.5	10.26	0.72	4.15	2.69
Uttar Pradesh	873.19	715.33	756.68	150.33	237.05	245.95
Uttaranchal	95.85	35.18	81.71	—	—	6.01
West Bengal	492.52	448.64	549.08	90.74	80.65	114.23
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	2.00
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—

@Allocations are not made State-wise. State-wise amounts shown relate to grants released to the organizations/institutions located in the respective States/UTs. These exclude releases made to National/Apex Institutes and ALIMCO under ADIP.

Funds released and utilization certificates received under the Schemes of National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD) during the 9th Plan (1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02)*

(Rs. in lacs)

State/UT	Total amount released	Utilization certificates received
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	257.10	136.40
Arunachal Pradesh	366.90	0.00
Assam	476.70	254.60
Bihar	599.00	309.70
Chandigarh	147.30	0.00
Chhattisgarh	363.95	0.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	147.30	5.08
Delhi	147.30	0.00
Goa	147.30	20.42
Gujarat	366.90	0.00
Haryana	257.10	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	257.10	57.37
Jammu & Kashmir	257.10	0.00
Jharkhand	366.90	0.00
Karnataka	379.40	66.31
Kerala	257.10	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	708.80	0.00
Maharashtra	379.40	223.35
Manipur	257.10	0.00
Meghalaya	257.10	0.00
Mizoram	147.30	4.65
Nagaland	257.10	134.42
Orissa	379.40	0.00
Pondicherry	147.30	28.64
Punjab	257.10	12.56
Rajasthan	379.40	0.00
Sikkim	147.30	147.30

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	379.40	26.85
Tripura	147.30	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	818.60	25.64
Uttaranchal	257.10	0.00
West Bengal	257.10	65.12
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	147.30	0.00
Daman & Diu	147.30	2.66
Lakshadweep	147.30	0.00

*The Scheme has since been transferred to States/Union Territories from the 10th Five Year Plan. Hence no releases in 2002-03 onwards.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, part 'A' and 'B' of the information placed on the Table clarifies that there is a great difference between the budget allocation and the revised budget. Under the Head of expenditure hon'le Minister has stated that allocated amount has been utilised cent percent. However, I would like to say that I am not satisfied with the reply. Reply to the 'C' part of the question shows that the Ministry re-appropriates the funds from one head to another as per the requirement of the scheme/programme. First of all I would like to know the areas where the diversion of the funds has been made. The first part of my question was about the number of applications received during the last three years from the disabled persons directly, and through the non-Governmental Organisations, Governmental organisations and the recommendations of the Members of Parliament. Out of which the number of applications cleared and the number of applications pending alongwith the reasons therefor. Was any recommendation made in July-August, 2002 to sanction grant-in-aid to a voluntary organisation "Ambgam Institute". For the Mentally Handicapped Children, Madurai-2 (Tamil Nadu) for the projects executed for disabled persons? If so, the action taken thereto?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble member has asked about the transfer of funds. Definitely, we depend upon State Governments and social organisations when we start schemes for the welfare of the disabled people. Also we have to consider the proposals, sent by the social organisations. If we find any shortcomings while checking out the proposals, we expect them to remove them and do their job completely. When such proposals are received after the allocations are made in the budget, then the deductions in budget is started therein. It is on account of this that revised estimates is made. The performance under the revised budget during the last three years is also before us. In 2000-2001, we utilized 95% of the revised estimate, in 2001-2002 it was 99% and in 2002-2003 it was a bit more than 100% of revised estimate.

Definitely, the reduction in allocation depends upon the receipt of proposals. If the proposals are not received timely, funds are deducted and we have to go by the provisions of revised estimate. So far as the particular scheme is concerned which he has forwarded to us, I will personally inform him about the action taken in that regard. Besides, we definitely take cognizance of the proposals that we receive under the scheme and pay due attention to them. Under this scheme we organise camps at the places where a survey is to be conducted and accomplish it with the cooperation of the local administration. From this point of view, it is a very vast programme which becomes successful with the cooperation of all. I am happy that hon'ble Member has shown his interest to the welfare of the disabled people and drawn the attention of the House in this direction. It will provide opportunities to us to work in this field. I want to say this much only.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, reply to part A of my question has not been given. My first question was about the number of applications received through the members of Parliament or through NGOs. Out of which the number of applications cleared alongwith the number of pending applications. Hon'ble Minister can furnish the information in this regard later on if the same is not available with him at this moment.

My second question is this whether it is true that applications of voluntary or some other organizations are often sent back repeatedly with baseless one objection or other while some other applications are accepted which do not even complete the procedural formalities. I do not want to comment upon the reasons behind it as hon'ble Minister himself must be aware of it as to how those applications are accepted which do not fulfil the necessary formalities and such cases are sanctioned. Similarly, hon'ble Minister must be aware of the applications which are sent back repeatedly with the baseless objections. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether any time limit would be fixed to dispose

of these cases and to bring transparency in the entire procedure so as to ensure that these cases would be sanctioned within a stipulated time and if they are rejected, it would be informed timely.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has given a very good suggestion. As we take some decisions for NGOs and large number of NGOs are attached with us, therefore, there should be a system in this regard. My Ministry has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of an officer retired from a senior position to seek suggestions in this regard. We are waiting for the recommendations of this Committee. We do not want to give a chance to anyone to blame for the delay in proposals due to various reasons. It is true that various informations are required in respect of the proposals received from the State Governments and those forwarded to us. Even then much time is taken to collect such information. On the request of same NGOs and hon'ble Members, we collect the information directly from our Ministry and institutes which possess such informations. After their approval, the State Governments are informed duly regarding the clearance of proposal.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: I had asked whether any time limit would be fixed for the disposal of cases?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: We will definitely do that. I have stated that after receiving the recommendations of the Committee, all these problems would be set right.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, from the Statement that has been given, one comes to know that the funds meant for the scheme have been largely and fairly utilised. Irrespective of the fact whether the funds have been well-utilised or ill-utilised, I am concerned about the part which comes after the utilisation of funds.

I would like to know, through you, Sir, from the hon. Minister whether any survey has been effected or a review technique has been introduced or any parameter is there to assess whether the funds have been well-utilised or ill-utilised. I would like to know whether he has any evaluation technique 'after the utilisation of funds'. Many people may be concerned about the utilisation of funds. In short, I would like to know whether you have got any technique to review it, whether you have got any technique to evaluate it, whether you have got any parameter to do it. If there is any review technique, then I would like to know the parameter. This is my first question.

The second question is this. Have you come across any misuse of funds or abuse of funds, in your experience? If so, what is the percentage of it? May I know whether it is marginal or substantial?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has asked about the system to ensure the proper utilisation of the funds. Definitely we have a monitoring and audit system regarding funds utilization. State Governments after approving a proposal forward it to us. Since we work in the area under jurisdiction of State Governments, we have to rely upon them. Whenever it seems that it should be investigated, our officers visit the concerned States and discuss the matter with the State Governments. We conduct inquiry also if a complaint is received against NGO. We are considering to devise a system to ensure utilization of the funds completely and functioning of NGOs properly. I hope such a system would be set up very soon by which we would be able to monitor their working and also the utilization of the funds.

So far as the complaint against the inappropriate working of NGOs is concerned, we black list such organisations and we have black listed a number of such organisations in the past which were mis-utilizing the funds.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an institute in Kanpur named LMCO which manufactures various types of aids for disabled and the Government distribute these aids among the disabled people through that Institute. I have written a letter to the hon'ble Minister regarding both the districts of my Parliamentary constituency Khajuraho. Thereafter, a survey was conducted there. Block-wise and village-wise a survey was conducted on 20 thousand disabled persons of Teekamgarh district. After receiving my letter in 2002 and conducting a survey in the same year, just 8-10 days before, in 2003, aids were distributed among 1006 disabled persons. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to why it was delayed, whether an inquiry would be conducted in this regard. Why only one thousand people got the aids out of the 20 thousand disabled persons, whether any action would be taken to provide the benefit of essential aids to rest of the 19

thousand disabled persons of Chattarpur and Teekamgarh districts of Khajuraho?

In the last part of my question, I would like to ask whether any survey has been conducted regarding disposal of the proposals received from various organisations and members of Parliament. How many of them have been disposed so far and how many are pending for more than one year?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, as far as the matter of LMCO, Kanpur is concerned, his complaint is genuine. The Ministry entertains only 5-10% of the total applications sent by the members of Parliament regarding LMCO, Kanpur. Members keep on writing to the Ministry but disabled persons do not get anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Only one thousand disabled people got the aids out of 20 thousand after one year. If public sector undertakings will work like this, you may give any reply in the House but the actual situation would remain dismal.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Hon'ble Members have expressed concern over the delay in accomplishment of the desired work regarding disabled people as we know that 5 percent of country's population is affected by some kind of disability and it is a challenge for us. It is also important that a survey be conducted keeping in view the need and help of each disabled person.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: The survey was conducted a year ago. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: How will the welfare of disabled persons be done if the matter is delayed in such a manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I would like to submit that everything would be done but there are large number of disabled in every area. As he has stated that there are 18 thousand disabled persons in his area, somewhere they are 25 thousand, somewhere 30 thousand and somewhere they are 40 thousand. Definitely, hon'ble Members have submitted the proposals. It is not possible to take up the proposals of all Parliamentary constituencies simultaneously, we consider the proposals State-wise. As he was mentioned that 1 thousand people of his area have been benefited which means that we are asking the efforts in this direction. We provide aids to disabled persons on the basis of availability of aids and resources. As it is a vast area which requires much resources and the House in this regard definitely. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Whether any resources have been increased during the last decade?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: We will look at this issue.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand, hon'ble Minister is stating that the resources have been increased and adequate resources are available with him while on the other he is replying that the supply could not be made due to the paucity of resources. This discrepancy in the reply should be clarified. I only seek assurance whether the remaining disabled persons would be benefited after the completion of survey and this is what I asked you.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: You have accepted that we have benefited one thousand persons. Next time onwards we will make arrangement to resolve the remaining issues one by one.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: You can quadruple the production of that factory within six months.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATIX D'SOUZA: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is one of the most important Ministries in the Government as it deals with the disabled, disadvantaged, senior citizens and with the Minorities. In the past, the Ministry had an excellent and well-deserved reputation. Last year, funds had been drastically reduced for 105 district hospitals for the disabled, for NGOs and Adhar in their own Ministry which deals with the redressal of the grievances of old people; Child Line, which deals with street children. There is also the Maulana Azad Education Society which is under the Ministry and is meant for funding schools for minorities. The previous funding was about Rs. 40-50 lakh whereas now it is only Rs. 25,000. Naturally nobody is asking for fund. Where is the money going? I think, perhaps, it is spent on advertisements. This Ministry spends more on advertisements than any other Ministry. A full-page advertisement costs about Rs. 9 lakh. Since the question deals with diversion of funds, I would like to know the total amount spent on advertisements from 2002 to 2003.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The question asked by the hon. Member relates to the handicapped persons. I have given information about the funds utilised under this Head. The expenditure incurred by us for the handicapped persons on the basis of the revised estimate is 100.87 percent for the year 2002-2003. This indicates that we are not lacking in efforts as far the handicapped persons are concerned.

As far the other question asked by the hon. Member is concerned, it is not related to it but I will certainly give reply if the hon. Member so desires.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA: How is it not related to the subject? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: You may give us the figure. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, we need your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let Shrimati Margaret Alva ask the question again. She can ask the same question again. You should at least cooperate with the Member of your Party.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I do want to point out, I suppose the Minister should know, that 80 per cent of India is rural. While all these schemes are there, I am sorry to say that nothing is reaching people outside the semi-urban areas. Even the hospitals which are being set up by the Government, the money that it gives is not reaching these people. I would also like to ask the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

The reservations for handicapped persons in jobs is not being given to anybody. I have recommended to time and again that.

[English]

'Not possible, not possible'. No handicapped people are getting employment, which is guaranteed under the quota. As my colleague has said, everything is being spent on advertisement. Sir, I would like to repeat the question. How much of the Budget, what percentage of the Budget the Government is spending on advertisements? What is the plan of the Government to see that the quota for the handicapped, particularly from the rural areas is met? I would also like him to tell us as to whether he has any plan for expanding his out-reach programmes to the rural areas because in my district also a total survey was conducted. We have given every single equipment, from wheelchairs to spectacles, to every single handicapped person. We have not given these things from the Central Government fund but we have raised the money from the private sector, State Government and the Red Cross. We have covered every single handicapped person and that too without the Central assistance.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The question has been asked about the reservation in jobs for the handicapped persons. The quota of 3 percent in Central Government's jobs has been fixed for the handicapped persons. Under this quota 6.56 percent of the group 'A' posts and 5.43 percent of the group 'B' posts has been filled. ...*(Interruptions)* I am providing information about the Central Government vacancies. The Union Government has filled the above mentioned vacancies in the various Ministries and departments functioning under it. The percentage of the vacancies filled up with the handicapped persons in group 'C' is 6.5% and in group 'D' is 6.39 percent. I have the figures of PSUs also in this regard. The vacancies filled up under the handicapped persons quota is 2.78 percent for group A posts, 8.54 percent for group 'B' posts, 5.04 percent for group 'C' posts and 6.75 percent for group 'D' posts and its overall average comes to 5.63 percent. We have directed the State Government to fill all the vacancies reserved for handicapped persons.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Have you filled them? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he never agreed. He never replied about the budget allocated on advertisements.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: We are trying to make maximum allocation. We will try to increase the people's awareness about it through radio and television.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: How much have you spent on it?

[English]

How much money have you spent?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As I have told that the information is being provided through radio and television in order to create awareness. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: How much money has been spent by you? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: We do not have larger budget for it. You just asked a question and sought the information. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Minister, please sit down. I have announced the name of another hon. Member to ask the next Question. Let him ask the Question.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It was essentially a part of the main Question as to what part of the Budget has gone on advertisements. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask the Ministry to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We are saying that the money is being spent on some other purpose, money is not being spent on handicapped persons ...*(Interruptions)* The advertisements are published in the newspapers, the money is spent on that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav.

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for formulating various schemes for the handicapped persons and doing a lot to improve the condition thereof. The works undertaken during the regime of the Government for handicapped persons have surpassed all the works done by the previous Governments. However the area of concern is that the handicapped persons will find it difficult to get the employment under the quota of handicapped persons and will be rendered jobless due to the ongoing process of privatisation of PSUs, various industries and hotels. This will pose a problem of livelihood for them. I would like to know as to whether the Ministry has formulated any scheme keeping in view the things so that the interest of the handicapped persons could be safeguarded and also to ensure that they get jobs and may not have to face any problem for their livelihood?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. As regards the disinvestment issue, you can ask it from the Disinvestment Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister I am sure you are aware that Q. No. 667 has also been clubbed with this Question.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Yes Sir as far the concern expressed by the hon. Member as regard to the effective steps being taken by the Government for providing employment is concerned, I would like to tell that we are trying our best to provide employment to them in railway and also to provide loans through the financial corporations. We have also started a scheme to provide loans at the interest rate of only two and a half percent under the micro credit scheme to the handicapped persons to enable them to set up their own business. We will also try to provide loans to the women at lower rate of interest. Besides we will also try to provide vocational training to women so that the handicapped persons could be able to maximise their output potential to earn their livelihood and thus enable them to lead in a dignified manner. My Ministry provides assistance to them through Finance Development Corporation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps you have not understood the question. Let me tell you. The question is whether you propose to insert a clause in the draft agreement of the PSU proposed to be disinvested so as to ensure that the reservation quota of handicapped persons in jobs may still continue to be provided even in the disinvested companies because only this could ensure jobs to the handicapped persons?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I will send this suggestion to the concerned Ministry.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has given information about a lot of schemes but if observed closely it will become clear that a handicapped person has no access to see Lok Sabha which is the apex institution in the country. Similarly there is no special provision for them in buses or in trains and even the toilets have not been constructed to provide them any facility. No Government or private office is following the rules to this effect. Orders in this regard have been issued by the Government several times and even by the Supreme Court to make such provisions for the handicapped persons but till date these have not been implemented. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: The question is that the handicapped persons cannot get any such facility unless they themselves approach the concerned authorities in this regard no matter whatever number of schemes for their welfare are formulated by the Government. Hence I would like to know whether the Government have any effective scheme to construct the various train platforms, access to houses and buildings etc. specifically meant for handicapped persons. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Whenever any such construction is undertaken by the Government it should be ensured that adequate measures are taken to provide for the easy accessibility for the handicapped persons. We have also issued directions that this thing be kept in mind while passing the layout of the building. This has even been adhered to at some of the places in Delhi. Similarly these norms have also been complied with while constructing some railway stations. ...*(Interruptions)* As this is a very important aspect we have given directions that adequate steps are taken to provide facilities to the handicapped persons. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let it begun from the Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Hon. Minister has stated in reply to my question that the estimated number of handicapped persons in Uttar Pradesh is approximately twenty five and half lakhs and out of funds released to various States in this regard, 818 lakhs rupees have been released for Uttar Pradesh out of which 25,64,000 rupees have so far been spent. Besides the district rehabilitation centres which run under the Ministry of Social Welfare are in a very pathetic condition. The employees working in these centres here not got their salary for months together due to which such schemes ought to be implemented by them are not being implemented. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the reason behind the great disparity that out of the 818 lakhs rupees of released amount only 25 lakhs rupees have been spent. Secondly India in the world and UP in India has the maximum number of polio patient. I would like to know the names of the schemes being implemented by your Ministry for the persons who have become handicapped due to polio? How many of the polio affected persons have been distributed essential devices through the district rehabilitation centres?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: There are 82 rehabilitation centres in the country. Not only this, handicapped persons are provided treatment facilities and other aids and appliances through the national institutes which specialise in this field. As has been asked about polio, work is certainly done by NGOs by holding camps in this regard and NGOs are given aid by the Ministry.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I would like to know the reason of this discrepancy. Why the funds allocated by the Ministry were not spent? ...*(Interruptions)* Only funds to the tune of 0.3 percent could be spent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ask for discussion to be held on it, I will allow it.

[Translation]

Financial Conditions of Railways

*666. + PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the administrative expenses and increasing debt of the Railways are affecting its revenue adversely;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether a number of rail projects are lagging far behind their schedule as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Railways last year for carrying out financial reforms in this regard; and

(f) the achievements of the Railways as a result of the said efforts?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Due to various measures taken, the financial position of the Railways has improved distinctly after 2000-01. The expenditure, which increased considerably after implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, has been brought under control and the earnings have also improved. As a result, the Operating ratio has improved from 98.3% in 2000-01 to 96% in 2001-02 and 92.5% in 2002-03 (RE). As regards debt, market borrowing through IRFC is resorted mainly to meet the gap in funding requirement of Rolling Stock acquisition/replacement and modernization. This figure is restricted to the assessed requirement to meet the traffic demands. As a percentage of total plan outlay, market borrowing has come down from 33% during the year 1998-99 to 23% during the year 2002-03. The lease charges which are payable include a component

for repayment of the principal and also for interest liability. The average cost to Railways on account of lease charges payable to IRFC in respect of assets funded out of market borrowing is progressively coming down form 13.17% during the year 1998-99 to 10.17% during the year 2001-02 and is likely to further come down to 7.5% during the year 2002-03.

(c) to (f) No, Sir, because railway projects are mainly financed by the general budgetary support and not by the internal resources. The level of budgetary support to the Railways has increased in the last couple of years. However, the Railways have a very large shelf of projects and the speed of their execution depends on the amount of budgetary support received. Apart from the increase in budgetary support, railways have entered into cost sharing arrangements for projects with certain States. Certain projects of strategic importance are being funded by the Ministry of Defence. The National project of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla is being separately funded through additional budgetary support. Railways are also exploring areas like private participation and formation of special purpose vehicles, etc. for speedy execution. A National Rail Vikas Yojana has also been launched to execute certain important railway projects worth Rs. 15,000 crore through non-budgetary initiatives. All these measures will help the railways in speeding up the completion of the pending projects.

[Translation]

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian Railways is the most important department of the country. Lakhs of persons get employment in it. The Ministry of Railways has immense property. Indian railway has a 150 years long history. The hon. Minister has said that financial condition of Railways has been improved considerably but several of the railway projects are still lying pending. The work of laying Ranchi-Lohardaga railway line in Jharkhand State is in progress but it is going on at a very slow pace. I would like to know from the hon. Minister by when this work will be completed and the railway traffic could be started on it?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not directly related to the original question but I would like to tell that the work on the project mentioned by the hon. Member is being carried on expeditiously. The Government of Jharkhand also has started releasing funds for the said project. We have also signed an agreement with the State Government. There are five projects for the State. In one of the projects the State Government has partial contribution. Another project involves two States. All these projects are to be completed within a definite span of time. The gauge conversion work at the Ranchi Lohardaga railway line as mentioned by the hon. Member is going on and new railway line upto Tori is also going on and it would be completed in time.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: The Minister of Railways has mentioned that the increase in the salaries of Railway employees recommended by the fifth pay commission has caused an additional burden of Rs. 5 thousand crore on Railways to be borne to pay the pensions and salaries of the employees. The financial condition of the Railway has improved a lot in 2001-2002 due to the new measures adopted by him and the deficit has been reduced to only 8 percent. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for it. Besides the share of loans have also been reduced from 33 percent to 23 percent of the total allocation. Similarly the share of lease system has also been reduced from 13 percent to ten percent. My question was that despite the improvement in the financial condition of Railways, whether several of its projects are funning much behind the schedule. If so, the details thereof. It would have made a very long list but hon. Minister has denied that such details cannot be given. I would request the hon. Minister that the work of converting Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Sitamarhi-Narkatiaganj rail line passing through my parliamentary constituency is going on but till now only work for earthing has been completed so far. The funds needed for it have not been allocated. This is the main route of North Bihar. Hence I would like to urge the hon. Minister to tell specifically the year and the date by when the said project which is pending for want of funds would be completed by making adequate allocation of funds.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the economic condition of Railways has been improving. The expenditure on staff has increased due to the implementation of the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission. We can also say that our lesser internal resource generation was also one of the reasons of our poor economic condition. Now we are absorbing it gradually. As far culling down on expenditure is concerned, we are trying to reduce it by taking several austerity measures.

Several steps have been taken to increase our earnings and also to attract maximum traffic. We have also mentioned several measures to be taken in this regard in this year's budget. In total it can be said that downward trend has reversed to go upward but still we have a lot to do. It cannot be said that the increase in

the expenditure on the staff has adversely affected railway projects. The funding of the railway projects is mainly done through budgetary support and it is being increased gradually. Our new railway projects including gauge conversion and doubling or MTP projects and the projects of railway electrification require 44 thousand crore rupees to get completed. We are also striving to mobilise money through some other sources and we are also getting assistance of the State Government in this regard e.g. assistance form Jharkhand and Karnataka Government is being received. Maharashtra is contributing in MTP project. Similar contribution is being provided by Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu Governments. The West Bengal Government is providing assistance in the ongoing metro-project there. Several States are providing funds for the projects. In some of the projects e.g. the project in Jammu and Kashmir, additional assistance is being provided by the Union Government. Similarly the assistance from the Ministry of Defence is being provided for designing strategic lines for defence purpose. We are trying to complete some of the projects through the participation of the private sector in them. Similarly we are also trying to mobilise funds from other sources also to complete the projects. Hon. Prime Minister has announced a National Railway Development Scheme. Separate arrangement is being made for it under which we propose to complete these projects in time by raising loans from abroad. This way efforts are being made to mobilise money from other sources and the budgetary support has also increased. As for the timely completion of the railway projects, the hon. Member to whose constituency the project belongs remains much more concerned about it. We will pay full attention to it. We are reviewing those projects. We would try to prescribe a time-limit for them also.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has rightly said that there is a big gap between the demand for funds and availability of funds. The necessity has compelled the Government of India to take other steps such as external finance, as you mentioned. Under the Mega Projects Scheme by the hon. Prime Minister, Rs. 15,000 crore have been given. But unfortunately when projects are selected in far-flung areas which are strategically important like Kashmir and North East, the share of money is not given. I have been pressing that Lumding and Silchar should be given some priority because it is like a chicken neck and you yourself have also visited these places. You know about them. I would like to know whether this particular project would be taken into consideration in future.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am well aware of the hon. Member's concern and I also share with him. So far as my Ministry is concerned, we are making additional efforts for that. The Union Government have decided to provide separate funds for rail projects to be started in Jammu and Kashmir, and we have succeeded in that also. Similarly, our efforts are going on for the projects of North-East region.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two rail lines, Poorna-Akola, Mudkher-Adilabad in my area for gauge conversion. Inadequate funds have been allocated in the Budget of last year as also the Budget of this year for both of these projects. But this project is not going to be completed with this Budget. My question is that as to what is the time-limit has been fixed for the completion of this project. Nothing can be done with the amount of thirty crore. Last year merely ten crore rupees were allocated for this purpose. The Project involves the cost of Rs. 220 crore. It would not get completed even in ten years with such a meagre amount.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member is concerned about the project in his area, which is quite natural, but you can well understand my position that in total we have two hundred and twenty five railway projects which are under execution at the moment. We have limited resources and we are trying to mobilise funds through additional resources too. The Government are making efforts to complete all the pending projects in a specific time limit—suppose outer limit has been fixed for ten years. We are making efforts for this and we get support from the hon. Members when they put their views in the House in this regard.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has said in his reply that budgetary support is being given and they have made improvements after the Fifth Pay Commission and an amount of more than Rs. 15 thousand crore is also deposited with the Railway Development Fund. He has claimed all these things and has also said that improvements have been made or being made. Despite all these improvements, approval for the new rail project, Hajipur-Vaishali-Sagauli has not been accorded. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that by when approval would be given to the said railway line and when the foundation of the project would be laid.

MR. SPEAKER: What is there to get angry on it?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Money is involved in this matter and hon. Minister is saying that he is making improvements. When hon'ble Minister would lay the foundation of the railway line then the actual improvement would be considered.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, if there is improvement, his co-operation is also there. When improvement is taking place, I would like to submit that he should extend his cooperation in his demand which is being made for a long time.

[English]

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: The question is regarding the financial condition of the Railways. To improve the financial condition of the Railways, the hon. Minister has stated the measures that are required to be taken. There are so many measures that he could take for this purpose. Unless he improves the financial condition of the Railways, he cannot take up new projects. He has not stated anywhere what are the cost reduction measures that the Railways are contemplating to take. But he is entering into unnecessary business like selling *Railneer.* Instead of making money, he will be losing money in this venture. He can buy such things. These are not productive activities and he should not enter into unproductive activities. He should take up only those projects which are related to the Railway efficiency.

Take for example, the cost of power. He can reduce the cost of power by entering into strategic alliances with NTPC and other power producers. He is paying a large amount of money for power and electricity in some of the States. There is no uniform rate of electricity available to the Railways. He has not mentioned what measures he is taking in this respect.

One can find everywhere while travelling on the track so much of waste material lying along side for the last many years. They are not being sold and are not being encashed. These are some of the measures that he can take to improve the financial condition of the Railways. The *National Rail Vikas Yojana* is a good thing that the Government of India has given him. But this is a fund of only Rs. 15,000 crore. What about the other measures that he is taking up? Unless he takes those measures, he cannot take up new projects. As it is, the Railways are running trains at the same speed at which they were running fifty years back. If he tries to improve the speed, immediately accidents happen. He should not only think of taking cost reduction measures, but also try to collect 100 per cent of passenger fares. He is not collecting them in some of the States.

What are the measures the Railways are contemplating to take in the next six months, so that their financial condition can improve? I would like to have a specific answer from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the only question arising out of the original question. The hon. Member's question is very good.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am very grateful to the hon. Member for asking this question.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Railways has taken not one but many steps to increase its income and reduce expenditure, which have been discussed here from time to time. During the discussion on budget speech such steps have also been discussed. As regards increasing the income, we have made rationalisation in freight aiming to attract maximum traffic, with a view to increase our earning. Similarly, we have also taken several steps to reduce expenditure. Power related issue has been discussed here. State Electricity Boards charge exorbitant tariff for power from us. They charge tariff from us two or three times more than the rates that they pay to NTPC and there are some States where the charges are more than double. We are continuously in touch with them in this regard. We approach the Regulatory Commission, where they exist, or the State Government. We are directly purchasing power from the NTPC, especially in the Kanpur Section as they do not pay attention to our submission. We are purchasing around 100 mega watts of power directly from NTPC in Ghaziabad-Kanpur section. Thus every year we are saving around Rs. 84 crore thereby. We are also considering to purchase power from NTPC between Kanpur and Allahabad. Besides, we are making efforts to cater the traction requirement of Railways to a certain extent, by generating power through setting up a joint venture company with the collaboration of NTPC in this way, there are not one but many schemes. Hon. Member talked about 'Rail Neer'. This would not only make supply of quality bottled water to the people, but would provide earning as also profit. Major part of the market of bottled drinking water in the country. ...*(Interruptions)* One has one's own views. Railways has a big share in it. People buy bottled water at the railway station. Income of the Railways would be increased if we manufacture our own bottled water.

Instead of talking of those countries where there is private railway, we talk of ours only. Railways privatisation is the only successful story in the world and this system exists in East Japan only where Japanese Railways Sell their own bottled water. We do not learn lesson from them.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: They have not been able to provide water to the common people so far and now they are talking of selling water. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I beg your pardon, Railways have become more accountable as they have accepted the challenge of providing pure bottled water to the people resulting in impurities found in the bottled water. We would provide them quality bottled water but this does not mean that we are not concerned about the water supplied through pipes. The present question relates to bottled water that we would sell. What is the problem in it, we would earn profit from it. We have taken cost cutting measures like advertisements and travelling.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This work be entrusted to the unemployed youths so that they could earn some money. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This is right. This relates to distribution networking. They have installed plant which has not been able to cater the need.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I agree to the views of hon. Minister for selling of bottled water. This is a very good thing. People would get water publicly and would also be getting bottled water. But I would request the hon. Minister that this bottled water be sold at lower prices than the market. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I have not permitted him.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not completed my reply. We have taken more cost cutting measures. This is the reason that we are reducing the ordinary working expenses, under the provision of operating expenditure. Which have been made for the last several years. We reduced this expenditure last year also. Similarly, the hon. Member said that scraps are lying without any use. We have increased our income from scrap disposal. We have introduced a computerised centralised Accounting System, so that we could earn more and more money from this scrap disposal and it may get finished with leakage. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We should fix a time-frame for both question and answer. Many supplementary questions are asked.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can write to hon'ble Minister and can ask question from him.

Central Incentives to Private Companies in Power Sector

*669. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assured to provide incentives to the private sector companies in order to boost power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the nature of incentives to be given by the Government to the private companies investing in power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The policy to attract and encourage larger investment through private sector participation in the power sector was announced in 1991 in the background of inability of Government alone to mobilize the required financial resources. This policy has been reviewed/ modified, wherever necessary, from time to time, with a view to streamlining the procedures ensuring transparency and for speedy development of the power projects. Some of the main salient features of the policy, also including the incentives available, are indicated below:

(i) Powers for environmental clearance decentralised to the extent feasible.

(ii) Capital cost limits exceeding which techno-economic clearance (TEC) is required from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), raised from time to time thus exempting the schemes from the requirement of TEC.

(iii) Automatic approval of foreign investment without any upper limit.

(iv) Tariff notification prescribing rate of return on investment, norms of operations for various types of power projects, etc.

(iv) Formulation of mega power policy, captive power policy, liquid fuel policy, hydel policy etc.

(vi) Relaxation of 40% cap on debt exposure by Indian Financial Institutions.

Some of the more recent initiatives taken by the Government, which would further pave the way for enhanced investments in generation, transmission and distribution, include the following:

- The Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP) approved by the Government of India on March 31, 2003, has an incentive component to encourage/motivate the State Electricity Boards (SEB)/Utilities to reduce cash losses. Under his scheme, 50% of actual cash loss reduction by the SEBs/Utilities will be given as grant by the Government of India to respective States.

- The excise duty/countervailing duty on naphtha as well as Low Sulpur Heavy Stock and other specified residual fuel oils used as primary fuel for power generation, has been removed.

- The duty exemption available for power projects identified as 'mega projects' under the 'mega power policy', has been extended to other new projects also which fulfil the required conditions.

DR. ASHOK PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know how much power generation is likely to be increased as a result of encouraging investment through private sector participation in the power sector and what percentage of demand of power in the country would be covered thereby. Besides, I would also like to know as to which criteria have been prescribed for encouraging investment through private sector participation in the power sector.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present country is facing shortage of power and to meet that shortage there is a need to encourage private sector participation. In view of the financial condition of State Governments and State Electricity Boards, we are going to encourage private sector participation to meet the shortage of power in the country. In the current year of tenth plan, we are likely to get additional power of seven thousand megawatt from private sector.

DR. ASHOK PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main reason for shortage of power is power theft and irregularities in power distribution. Whether the Government propose to take concrete steps to check the power theft and irregularities in power distribution, if so, the details thereof? Whether the proposal in regard to reduce the subsidy being given to the power sector is under consideration of the Government if so, the details thereof?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although it is not directly related to the original question, yet the concern express by hon'ble Member is genuine and it is also true that power theft takes place at large scale. Due to this theft, the condition of State Electricity Boards is deteriorating day by day. All States have been directed to check this power theft by enacting stringent legislation and the House is aware of it. Recently, Electricity Bill, 2001 has been passed in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, it has stringent provisions to check power theft. Some States have taken steps in this regard. West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh are among those States which have enacted this kind of laws and have also implemented them. It has given good results. Such laws have been implemented strictly in particularly it has yield good result. Cases of power theft have also declined, and recovery is increasing.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: The country is reeling under an acute power shortage. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question quickly. Otherwise, you may not get the reply. Please put a straight question.

SHRI A.C. JOS: In the written reply, it has been given that thirty five Hydro-Electric Schemes with a total capacity of 6595 MW are now in the cold storage because of the disputes between the States. The third answer is that at present the Government has no proposal to constitute a Committee to solve this dispute. My specific question is this: Will the Government be kind enough to constitute a High Power Committee under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister to solve this problem? This is a very serious situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please give a reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him give the reply. Otherwise, Question Hour will be over and you will miss the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by hon'ble Member is related to question number 668, whereas question number 669 is being discussed. Despite in view the importance of this question, I would like to reply that such demand has been made that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: But, I will not give you permission because how can you reply to other question during discussion on this question.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of privatisation of power sector has been raised here. We support it in principle, because it is essential to check the losses being suffered by Government. During the last session I told as to how 50 lakh poors living in the slums of Delhi are involved in power theft and one thousand contractors are looting them in this connection. I would like to cite an example that when power distribution task was with the Government the power deficit was not more than one thousand crore rupees, but since this sector has been opened for privatisation, it has suffered a loss of Rs. 1250 crore rupees during the last nine months. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question otherwise, you may not get reply.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given in writing that in Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief. Otherwise, Question Hour will be over.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking him to do the same thing.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I have given in writing to the hon'ble Minister. What action is being taken in that regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him give the reply.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has asked the question in regard to power distribution, he has give me in writing for its privatisation also. Necessary action in this regard would be taken after obtaining information from Delhi Government.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, serious situation has emerged in power sector. The Ministry of Power has fixed a target of 24000 million unit of power generation but only one thousand crore rupees have been increased in the budget. The allocation under APDRP, a special scheme of the Prime Minister, has been reduced from Rs. 3500 crore to Rs. 1800 crore in the budget. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government will encourage more investment through power sector in NTPC and Nuclear power corporation.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Many efforts are made to encourage private sector participation. There is a need to give incentive to private sector to meet the power shortage. I agree with the hon'ble Member and whatever in this cooperation is required in this matter, the Ministry will definitely extend.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Allotment of STD/ISD/PCO Booths at Railway Stations

*664. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have framed a new policy for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths at railway stations/platforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of commission being fixed for recovery from the STD/ISD/PCO booths to be allotted through tendering system; and

(d) the steps being taken for the protection of the existing STD/ISD/PCO booth holders belonging to handicapped, scheduled castes/tribes etc. who are solely dependent on it for their livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Policy guidelines have been issued regulating allotment of space for setting up of STD/ISD/ PCO Booths at railway stations from time to time. The last policy guidelines on this subject were issued in April/ May, 2002. Detailed guidelines for fresh allotment of STD/ ISD/PCO Booths at railway stations interalia include scale and number of booths depending upon category of stations, eligibility criteria, educational qualifications, reservations in allotment for various categories of persons, procedure for selection, licence fees and other charges to be realized, renewal of the existing contract, etc.

(c) As per the policy in force, tendering system is to be adopted only at 'A', 'B' & 'C' category of stations. The percentage of commission shall be the commission payable as per bid subject to a minimum of 10% of the commission payable to the booth operators by the telecom service provider i.e., MTNL etc.

(d) Instructions have been issued to the Zonal Railways to continue the licenses of the existing STD/ ISD/PCO booth holders upto 27.4.2005, if considered desirable and subject to the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions as stipulated in policy guidelines. Even after this date, the persons belonging to under-privileged groups, such as, SCs/STs, OBCs, physically handicapped, women including war widows and railway employees' widows for whom a separate quota has been fixed, can apply in the open selection as and when the applications are called for.

[Translation]

Gas to NTPC Power Plants

*665. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC Power Plants in the country are unable to utilize their installed capacity to the full due to non-supply of gas to them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to ensure adequate supply of gas to them?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) gas based power plants with a total capacity of 3955 MW and with a gas demand of 17.60 Million Standard Cubic Meters per Day receive lesser gas for their projects and have received on an average only 10.63 Million Standard Cubic Meters per Day in 2002-2003.

The Gas Linkage Committee under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas allocates gas to various sectors including Power Sector projects of NTPC on considering the availability position, requirement etc. As against the allocation of about 120 Million Standard Cubic Meters per Day of natural gas, the supply is limited to only around 65 Million Standard Cubic Meters per Day in the country necessitating reduction in supply to the users.

(c) Efforts are being made to increase gas availability through increase in domestic production as well as import through Liquefied Natural Gas terminals as well as transnational gas pipelines.

[English]

Delay in Hydro Electric Projects

*668. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of Hydro Electric Projects get inordinately delayed due to Inter-State disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cost of generation of Hydro-electric plants is much lower as compared to thermal plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to constitute Inter-State Tribunal for early settlement of Inter-State disputes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said Tribunal is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Thirty five Hydro Electric Schemes with a total capacity of 6595 MW are at present held up due to Inter State disputes. State-wise break up is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The cost of generation from power projects, including hydro power projects, is project specific. However, in case of hydro projects, no cost of fuel is involved.

(e) and (f) At present, the Government has no proposal to constitute an Inter State Tribunal for hydro electric projects.

Statement

State-wise Hydro Electric Schemes involving Inter-State Aspects

Sl.No.	State	No. of Projects
	NORTHERN REGION	
1.	Punjab	1
2.	Rajasthan	1
3.	Uttar Pradesh	1
4.	Uttaranchal	1
	WESTERN REGION	
5.	Maharashtra	1
6.	Madhya Pradesh	3
7.	Goa	1
	SOUTHERN REGION	
8.	Andhra Pradesh	1
9.	Karnataka	6
10.	Kerala	6
11.	Tamil Nadu	7
	EASTERN REGION	
12.	Assam	1
13.	Bihar	1
14.	Jharkhand	1
15.	Orissa	3
	Total	35

[Translation]

Orphanage in the Country

*670. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of orphanages in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government provide any financial assistance to orphanages;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to review its policy on orphanages; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (f) Orphanages are registered and recognized by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is giving grant-in-aid to Shishu Grehs under its Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for children to promote in-country adoption, under which 42 such homes have been sanctioned grant-in-aid during 2002-2003. Under another scheme, General Grant-in-Aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence, and orphanage for girls in Andaman and Nicobar, viz. Pranab Kanya Sangha, Port Blair, is being given financial assistance. A statement showing State-wise and Union Territory-wise grant-in-aid released to them under both the schemes during 2002-03 is enclosed. There is no proposal to review the policy of giving grant-in-aid to Homes (Shishu Grehs).

Statement

(Amount in Rupees)

Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for Children to Promote in-Country Adoption

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of NGOs	Amount released
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	4,90,500
2.	Assam	1	2,30,338

1	2	3	4
3.	Delhi	2	12,37,824
4.	Gujarat	2	8,24,400
5.	Haryana	2	4,74,911
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	3,94,074
7.	Kerala	3	,6,65,378
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1	3,98,700
9.	Maharashtra	14	78,05,908
10.	Manipur	3	18,79,670
11.	Mizoram	1	4,67,550
12.	Orissa	5	36,88,560
13.	Rajasthan	2	10,16,100
14.	Tripura	2	9,83,700
15.	West Bengal	2	7,33,577
	Total	42	2,12,91,190
	General Grant in aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	4,09,334

[English]

Joint Venture with NTPC

*671. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is the major shareholder in the proposed Joint Venture Company with NTPC;

(b) if so, under what circumstances, the NTPC has been given the first right of refusal to provide operation and maintenance services for the power projects to be set up by the JVC; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to tackle the situation in case the NTPC, who are holding expertise in the field, refuse to operate the services?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Railways are contemplating to hold major share holding (51%) in the proposed Joint Venture Company (JVC) with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

(b) Major share holding (51%) has been contemplated by the Railways in order to get the captive status of the power plant for Railways use. As NTPC are the partners in the proposed JVC and are also having wide ranging expertise in the field and the fact that the Railways do not have the core competence, they have been given prerogative of first right of refusal to provide operation and maintenance services.

(c) Being themselves partners in the proposed JVC and also having unparalleled expertise in this field, it is expected that NTPC will normally not refuse to provide operation and maintenance services for the power plants. However, in the unlikely event of their not able to do so, the services may have to be obtained from some other company/firm having adequate expertise in these areas.

[Translation]

Wasteful Expenditure in Railways

*672. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a no proper control and check on the wasteful expenditure and working of the Railways;

(b) whether the CAG has referred to this problem in its report of 2001;

(c) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to formulate and implement any concrete policy/programme on economy and austerity and to check the wasteful expenditure in Railways; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. A well-set comprehensive mechanism for control of expenditure and on railway working exists on the Railways.

(b) Comptroller & Auditor General of India in its report of 2001 has not made any remarks on lack of proper control and check on wasteful expenditure on the railway system as a whole, but has, however, commented only on certain specific cases of possible loss of revenue/ avoidable expenditure.

(c) and (d) The existing internal check system on Indian Railways requires all financial transactions to be completely pre-checked with reference to provisions contained in various Railway Codes, further instructions issued by the Ministry of Railways from time to time and also with reference to recognised standard of financial propriety. Railways are taking several steps to control expenditure. These measures include improving staff productivity, asset utilization, inventory management, fuel consumption and ensuring austerity in areas such as travel, publicity, hospitality, etc. In the last six years, Railways have consistently achieved saving in the Ordinary Working Expenses as compared to the Budget Estimates.

[English]

Purchase Preference Policy

*673. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to include more products and services of PSUs under the Purchase Preference Policy, so as to give fillip to loss making PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the said Policy more effective to rejuvenate the loss making PSUs; and

(d) the extent to which the said Policy has achieved its goal?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The extant Purchase Preference Policy of the Government is applicable to all products and services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) including the loss making enterprises, where the value of purchase under the Tender/Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) being Rs. 5 crore and above. Presently, there is no proposal before the Government to make any changes in the aforesaid Policy. However, emphasis is laid on implementation of this policy and therefore, the matter is followed up vigorously with the concerned organizations. As per available information, 28 central government enterprises including 8 loss making CPSUs and 2 joint ventures of CPSUs have been benefited under the existing purchase preference policy (A Statement is enclosed). However, it is difficult to quantify the net benefits of the purchase preference policy alone in rejuvenating the loss making PSUs as other factors like modernisation of plant and machinery, availability of working capital, business restructuring, marketing strategies, rationalization of manpower etc. also play an important role in this regard.

Statement

List of Central Public Sector Undertakings/Joint Ventures Benefited during first nine Months of 2002-03

Sl.No.	Name of CPSU
1	2
Central Public Sector Undertakings	
1.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Limited
2.	Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited
3.	Bharat Earth Movers Limited
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
6.	BBJ Construction Co. Limited
7.	Bridge & Roof Co. of India Limited
8.	Electronic Corporation of India Limited
9.	Engineers India Limited
10.	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
11.	Hindustan Latex Limited
12.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited
13.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited
14.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
15.	Hindustan Shipyard Limited
16.	Hoogly Dock & Port Engineers Limited
17.	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Limited
18.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited
19.	I.B.P. Co. Limited
20.	ITI Limited
21.	Kochi Refineries Limited
22.	Jessop & Co. Limited

1	2
23.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited
24.	Richardson & Cruddas Limited
25.	South Eastern Coalfields Limited
26.	Steel Authority of India Limited
Joint Ventures	
1.	Bharat Shell Limited
2.	Tide Water Oil Co. Limited

Coal Bed Methane

*674. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States/regions which produce Coal Bed Methane in the country;

(b) the quantum of Coal Bed Methane produced annually in the said States/regions;

(c) whether there is a policy of Government on CBM;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to increase the production of CBM?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) As of date, there is no commercial production of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in India.

(c) to (e) In order to harness CBM as an alternative source of energy, the Government has, in 1997, formulated a policy for exploration & production of CBM which provides for award of blocks on the basis of International Competitive Bidding. In the first offer of blocks under the Policy, five blocks, i.e. two blocks each in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh and one block in West Bengal, have been awarded. The contracts for all these five blocks have been signed, two with a Consortium of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), one with Essar Oil Limited and two with Reliance Industries Limited. In addition, contracts for two flocks, i.e. one each in Jharkhand and West Bengal, have been signed with a consortium of ONGC and Coal India Limited (CIL). Also, a contract for one more CBM block in West Bengal has been signed with M/s. Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited (GEECL).

Committee for Power Sector Reforms

*675. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parekh Committee set up to assist in developing State specific reform programmes to rapidly restore and sustain the financial viability of power sector has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether the Government have accepted these recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main recommendations of the Committee in the first part of the Report are as follows:

(i) The Committee classified the general financial debility of SEBs into two broad types of deficits, namely, deficiency from the past and deficiency pertaining to the future. For evolving broad principles of financial restructuring of SEBs, the Committee has suggested a combination of pruning the liability and refinancing at concessional terms.

(ii) There would be two streams of support under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for supporting the reform initiatives to rapidly restore and sustain the financial viability of the electricity business in the SEBs/States. One would be for critical investment to improve distribution systems. Another stream would be for incentives for reducing the gap between unit of supply and revenue realization.

(iii) The SEBs may be considered for unbundling and made competitive by adopting any of the eight suitable models for the market structure.

The Committee submitted its 2nd Report recently. In the said report, the Committee has recommended that

comprehensive reform milestone by the States is required for credible turnaround plan. In view of the above, the Committee has suggested to the State Governments and SEBs/Utilities to chalk out appropriate reform strategies keeping in view the conditions obtained in the respective States and forge the process of turnaround in consultation with various key stakeholders. While doing so, the Committee has suggested that State Governments could choose from one or more of the windows that could be available for transition financing, based on their respective comfort level with the conditionalities of the respective options.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Committee have been noted in the Government and have been brought to the notice of the State Governments. The State Governments have also been requested to implement the recommendations pertaining to financial restructuring of SEBs and devise appropriate market structure. While doing so, it is expected that the State Governments would take note of the suggestions made in the report to avail of the required transition funding satisfying the funding agencies of their comfort level by demonstrating the Utilities' and States' commitment to the turnaround strategy.

Recommendation of SC/ST National Commission

*676. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recommendation of the National Commission for SC and ST in their V and VI reports for passing of Central Legislation to enforce reservation in Government Services, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Sectors, Banks, Universities, Grant-in-aid bodies etc.;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to pass such legislation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Recommendations of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (NCSCST) in its V Report alongwith Action Taken Memorandum has been laid on the Table of the House on 17.5.2002. Recommendations contained in the VI Report of the Commission are being processed in the Ministry and the same alongwith Action Taken Memorandum will be laid on the Table of the House.

Upgradation of NIMH and NIHH Into Full-fledged University

*677. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH) and National Institute for Hearing Handicapped (NIHH) into a full-fledged university dealing with physical disabilities and related education;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the extent to which the present NIHH and NIMH are unable to train the requisite number of personnel required in the country;

(d) whether the Government will consider different and modified courses at NIHH and NIMH to train more people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The proposals of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai and National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for being awarded Deemed University status have been submitted to Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(c) (i) The Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped runs programmes for:

1. Bachelor in Science in Hearing, Language & Speech
2. Bachelor in Education (Hearing Impairment)—3 Courses
3. Bachelor in Audiology, Speech Language Pathology
4. Diploma in Hearing, Language and Speech

5. Diploma in Special Education (Hearing Impaired)
6. Master of Education (Hearing Impaired)
7. Master of Science (Audiology and Speech Language Pathology)

(ii) The National Institute for Mentally Handicapped runs programmes for:

1. Diploma in Special Education (Mental Retardation)
2. Diploma in Vocational Training and Empowerment (Mental Retardation)
3. Bachelor in Rehabilitation Services (Mental Retardation)
4. Bachelor in Special Education (Mental Retardation)
5. Bachelor in Special Education (Mental Retardation) Distance Mode
6. Post Graduate Diploma in Early Intervention
7. Diploma in Early Childhood Special Education.

Some other Institutes and NGOs also run programmes in related areas. However, as per estimates of Rehabilitation Council of India, there exists a gap in the requirement and availability of trained manpower in the areas of mental retardation and hearing impairment.

(d) and (e) While the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped plans to introduce new courses in the field of Mental Retardation at Diploma/Degree and Post-Graduate levels, The Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped plans to add Degree and Post-graduate Courses in Audiology.

Railways to Go Online

*678. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided and taken steps to hit the information (Cyber) highway to get "connected" to go online;

(b) if so, the progress so far made in that direction;

(c) the facilities provided or to be provided to passengers under the scheme; and

(d) the cost involved therein so far and the estimated total expenditure to be incurred on the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) (i) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have introduced on-line services since mid 1980s beginning with computerisation of passenger reservation followed by Freight Operations Information System (FOIS), National Train Enquiry System (NTES) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS). During the preceding 3 years, some of these services have been web enabled and now reserved ticketing, reservation related enquiries like passenger fares, Time Table information, Complaints & Suggestions, tourist information etc. are available on the Web.

(ii) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a Corporation under the Ministry of Railways, has started on-line reserved ticketing service. This service enables a passenger to book and pay for his ticket online and have the ticket delivered at the desired address.

(iii) Ministry of Railways has also set up RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RailTel), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways to create a nationwide telecom and multi-media network by utilising Railways' Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) assets and Right of Way (ROW).

RailTel plans to provide as pilot projects Internet kiosks at New Delhi Railway Station and Internet services on one of the selected trains during the current financial year using its OFC network. Extension of these services will be considered after successful trials. RailTel also plans to connect 150 important cities and 1,500 stations on optic fibre cable network progressively which will enable provision of on-line services to Railway passengers.

(iv) The upgradation and modernisation of passenger related information to provide additional and easy accessibility of information to passengers is a continuous exercise which is being undertaken by Zonal Railways and other units of Railways like IRCTC, Central Railway Information System (CRIS), Rail Tel. So far railways have incurred around Rs. 856.73 cr. on computerization of various services. Upgradation & modernization of railway services is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Resettlement Scheme for Safai Karamcharis

*679. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the emancipation and resettlement of Safai Karamcharis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated by the Government for the implementation of the said scheme during the last three years; and

(d) the number of Safai Karamcharis resettled during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents (NSLRS) since 1992. The objective of the scheme is to liberate the scavengers from their existing occupation and to provide for and engage them in alternative and dignified occupations. The main components of the Scheme are survey for identification of scavengers, training and rehabilitation. In order to energise and accelerate the pace of NSLRS, the concept of sanitary mart has been introduced in the year 1999-2000 for rehabilitation of scavengers in groups. Besides this, National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) is providing loans at concessional rates of interest to the Safai Karamcharis including Scavengers and their dependents for taking up income generating activities under Term Loan and Micro Credit Finance (MCF) programmes.

(c) The funds allocated are as follows:

(Rs. in Crores)

Financial Year	Funds allocated (Budget Estimates) under the NSLRS
2000-2001	67.50
2001-2002	74.00
2002-2003	80.00

(d) The number of beneficiaries assisted are as follows:

Financial Year	Beneficiaries assisted under the NSLRS	Beneficiaries assisted under the NSKFDC's Term Loan & Micro-credit Finance Programme
2000-2001	22768	20489
2001-2002	22059	9249
2002-2003	62069 (anticipated)	25262 (anticipated)

[English]

DTH Services in Doordarshan

*680. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has decided to join the direct-to-home (DTH) services as reported in 'Hindustan Times' dated April 15, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said plan is to be implemented in the country, State-wise, particularly in West Bengal;

(d) the manner in which it is useful for the viewers;

(e) the funds likely to be invested by the Government for the same;

(f) whether the introduction of DTH services is going to have an impact on Cable network;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (h) In its meeting held in April, 2003, the Prasar Bharati Board has approved the participation of Doordarshan in the DTH programme. The viewers would be able to receive TV channels without the cable or the intervention of any cable operator. The details of the scheme are yet to be finalised.

Electrification of Villages through NCES

*681. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a renewable energy vision 2012 aiming at electrification of 18,000 remote villages, which cannot be electrified through conventional sources;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified those villages;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith sources of non-conventional energy identified for electrification of those villages, State-wise; and

(d) the number of villages electrified so far under this programme and to be electrified in the year 2003-2004, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has taken up some important programmes for implementation during the coming decade. One such programme, initiated during 2001-02, is the electrification of the estimated 18,000 villages in the remote and difficult areas of the country through renewable energy sources. A target for electrifying 5,000 such villages has been fixed for the Tenth Plan period.

(b) and (c) The Government has advised the States to identify remote villages for electrification through non-conventional energy sources. Several States have submitted partial or complete lists of such villages to the Ministry. The State-wise details of the number of remote villages identified for electrification through non-conventional energy sources are given in the enclosed statement-I. Solar energy, biomass and small hydro power are the main sources of non-conventional energy which are likely to be used in the electrification of most remote villages. The specific technology to be deployed in a particular village is determined by the locally available renewable energy resource and the projected demand.

(d) Under the Village Electrification Programme of the Ministry, 915 villages have been electrified through renewable energy systems during 2001-2002 & 2002-2003. The State-wise details of these villages and the villages where projects are under implementation are given in the enclosed Statement II. It is proposed to electrify 1,000 villages during 2003-2004. There is no State-wise allocation of targets.

Statement I

States which have submitted Partial or complete Lists of Remote Villages Identified for Electrification through Non-conventional Energy Sources

Sl. No.	State	No. of Villages indicated in the lists
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	77
3.	Assam	2,800
4.	Bihar	321
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,250
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	96
7.	Jharkhand	70
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1,226
9.	Maharashtra	307
10.	Manipur	137
11.	Meghalaya	2,332
12.	Mizoram	25
13.	Nagaland	13
14.	Orissa	200
15.	Rajasthan	565
16.	Sikkim	32
17.	Tripura	585
18.	Uttar Pradesh	100
19.	Uttaranchal	1,127
20.	West Bengal	1,450

Statement II

State-wise details of the Remote Villages Electrified and Being Electrified through NCES under the Village Electrification Programme of the Ministry during 2001-02 & 2002-03

(Based on information received from States upto 3.5.2003)

Sl.No.	State	No. of Villages Electrified	No. of Villages being Electrified
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	67
3.	Assam	36	3
4.	Chattisgarh	120	200
5.	Gujarat	—	1
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	57	—
7.	Jharkhand	—	20
8.	Madhya Pradesh	—	55

1	2	3	4
9.	Manipur	—	137
10.	Meghalaya	—	25
11.	Mizoram	7	14
12.	Nagaland	—	13
13.	Tripura	11	18
14.	Uttaranchal	80	209
15.	Uttar Pradesh	—	14
16.	West Bengal	594	321
	Total	915	1114

[Translation]

Improvement in Services of AIR/Doordarshan

*682. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps so far taken by Prasar Bharati to improve the services of All India Radio and Doordarshan as compared to the private channels;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal for the modernisation and digitalisation of operations to give better status to AIR and DD among the channels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds approved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) It is a constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to maintain high standards of AIR and Doordarshan services and for the purpose, schemes of upgradation and modernisation of facilities at various Stations/Kendras are formulated and implemented from time to time.

(b) All India Radio plans to give thrust for expansion of FM services, Digital systems in Studio production and programme distribution through terrestrial and satellite links. Doordarshan also has proposals for modernisation and digitalisation of its Kendras during the 10th Five Year Plan

(c) Prasar Bharati has allocated Rs. 222 crores and Rs. 1043 crores for AIR and Doordarshan respectively for modernisation and digitalisation of its operations during the 10th Five Year Plan.

Examination of Jr. Accounts Assistant by RRB, Gorakhpur

6545. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of failure in employing some of those selected candidates of the year 2001 for the post Junior Accounts Assistant by Railway Recruitment Board, Gorakhpur;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which the Government would provide employment to the rest of the selected candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) All the candidates selected by Railway Recruitment Board, Gorakhpur for the post of Junior Accounts Assistant have been offered appointment.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Auto Fuel Policy

6546. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new auto fuel policy has been described as ineffective by eminent personalities;

(b) if so, whether Anil Agarwal clean air model prepared by the Centre for Science and Environment has been released shortly; and

(c) if so, the salient feature of this air model?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The new Auto Fuel Policy has not been finalized at yet.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Technology to Develop Bio-mass Energy

6547. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to implement new technologies to develop bio-mass energy production in the country during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a vast scope to develop bio-mass energy in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government have formulated any plant to tap the potentiality in this area;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard particularly in the State of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A target of 775 MW has been fixed for biomass power projects for the Tenth Five Year Plan. The projects will be based on various biomass conversion technologies including direct combustion, cogeneration and gasification.

(c) A total biomass power potential of 19,500 MW has been estimated for the country.

(d) and (e) An aggregate capacity of 537 MW has already been installed in the country comprising of biomass power projects of 180 MW capacity, bagasse cogeneration projects of 304 MW surplus capacity, and biomass gasification projects of 53 MW capacity. In addition, a capacity of 587 MW is under implementation. A capacity addition of 138 MW is planned for 2003-04.

(f) Central Financial Assistance is provided for setting up of biomass energy projects in various States, including Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Financial incentives are provided for preparation of Detailed Project Reports, awareness creation and training. Fiscal incentives including accelerated depreciation and relief from taxes and duties, are also being provided. Term loans are available from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Policies have been announced by the States for providing grid connectivity and purchase of electricity from these projects.

[Translation]

Development of Backward and Weaker Section

6548. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have submitted any proposal for the development of the backward and weaker section people of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have given approval for this scheme; and

(d) if not, the time by which the above scheme is likely to be approved and funds would be provided to State Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. Government of Bihar have not submitted any proposal for the development of the backward and weaker section people of the State for the year 2003-04.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

New Rail Projects in Central Railway, Mumbai

6549. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railway has approved and sanctioned the new rail projects of FOBs, extension of FOBs, repairing for Railway stations between Kurla-Mulund and Kurla-Mankhurd recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith fund allocated therefor;

(c) the target fixed for completion of work alongwith present status thereof;

(d) whether due to construction of 6th line at Mulund, the access and approach of Mulund (East) is going to become difficult;

(e) whether Railway Prabasi Sangh, local MP has discussed this difficulty with the concerned Engineering staff of Central Railway, Mumbai; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) No, Sir. The approach will be the same. The direct entry to platform no. 4 will be closed and new entry will be provided via Foot Over Bridge extended on East side.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) to (c) Details are as under:

Sl.No.	Station	Details of work of FOB	Status
(I) New Foot Over Bridges (FOBs)—			
1.	Kanjurmarg	Work of FOB with over head booking office at a cost of Rs. 38 lakh. Outlay for 2003-04—Rs. 5.0 lakh	The work has been sanctioned in Works Programme, 2003-04. (The target Date of completion is July, 2004).
2.	Kurla	Work of 6m wide FOB at a cost of Rs. 175 lakh. Outlay for 2003-04—Rs. 69.0 lakh	Tender invited. (Target date of completion is December, 2004).
3.	Ghatkopar	Work of 12m wide FOB at a cost of Rs. 257 lakh. Outlay for 2003-04—Rs. 87.0 lakh	Tender invited. (Target date of completion is March, 2005).

(II) No new FOB has been sanctioned in Kurla-Mankhurd section.

(III) Extension of Foot Over Bridges (FOBs)—

S.No.	Station	Details of work of FOB	Status
1.	Govandi	Extension of FOB to West side at a cost of Rs. 30 lakh. Outlay for 2003-04—Rs. 15.0 lakh	Tender invited. (Target date of completion is September, 2004.)
2.	Bhandup	Extension from PF no. 2/3 to PF no. 4 at a cost of Rs. 27 lakh. Outlay for 2003-04—Rs. 15.0 lakh	Target date of completion is September, 2004.

(IV) In addition to above, FOBs at Ghatkopar, Kanjurmarg & Mulund have already been extended in connection with 5th & 6th line work.

(v) The repair works at Railway stations are taken up regularly as and when required on condition basis.

Internal Resources Generation Scheme

6550. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has taken any steps to implement the Internal Resource Generation Scheme in some areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The freight and passenger earnings constitute around 90% of the Railway revenues. In order to generate more revenue, Railways are continuously striving to augment

its traffic earnings by capturing more and more traffic. In the case of freight traffic, various marketing strategies, which include rationalisation of the freight structure, are being adopted. In the rationalised freight structure, the ratio between the highest and the lowest freight rate has been reduced from 8.0 to 2.8 and the total number of classes reduced from 59 to 27 in the last two Railway Budgets. The band of freight rates has been made more compact by lowering the highest class from Class-300 to Class-250. The station-to-station rates scheme has been liberalised for granting freight concession on specific streams of traffic. An incentive scheme has been introduced for Premier Customers of the Railways who offer additional earnings. To improve the earnings from parcel traffic, the rates have also been rationalised by reducing the rate scales from 7 to 4 and all types of commodities are being charged at a uniform rate depending upon the type of service selected by the customer. In the case of parcel rates, the ratio of highest and lowest rate has been reduced from 8.7 to 6.2. Efforts are being made to step up passenger earnings by providing additional coaches and running special/new trains to cater to the growing demand.

Apart from the above, Railway lands, other than those under track and structure, are licensed for generation of revenue from various uses of land namely, loading/ stacking of materials near sidings and stations, bulk oil installations, way leave facilities etc. Also Railways are seeking to augment revenue generation by commercial exploitation of Railway land and air space and commercial publicity on rolling stock and Railway stations etc. Feasibility/market studies are taken up to ascertain the commercial potential of Railway land/air-space. In addition, Railways have formed a Corporation, namely, RailTel Corporation of India Ltd., which will earn revenues for Railways by utilising the Railways' right-of-way (ROW) for laying of Optical Fibre Cable and commercially exploiting the surplus capacity in the telecom network.

As of now, there are no additional areas under consideration of the Railways, for increasing the resource generation.

Claim Settlements in Railway Claim Tribunals

6551. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases relating to claims settlement pending with the various Railway Claims Tribunals, zone wise;

(b) whether several victims of Railway accidents have boycotted the hearings of Railway Claims Tribunals;

(c) if so, the details thereof with reasons;

(d) the time likely to be taken to clear the pending claims;

(e) whether the Central Government have framed any policy guidelines for the speedy settlement of claims;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No. of cases pending as on 1.4.03.

Name of the zone	Name of the Bench	No. of pending cases
1	2	3
North Zone	Delhi	945
	Chandigarh	365
	Lucknow	1418
	Ghaziabad	960
	Gorakhpur	2472
	Total	6160
East Zone	Calcutta	4967
	Patna	3853
	Guwahati	3336
	Bhubneshwar	363
	Total	12519
West Zone	Mumbai	1257
	Bhopal	1104
	Ahmedabad	917
	Jaipur	443
	Nagpur	48
	Total	3769
South Zone	Chennai	333
	Secunderabad	1229

1	2	3
	Ernakulam	388
	Bangalore	347
	Total	2297
	Grand Total	24745

(b) and (c) No such incident has been reported.

(d) RCT is a judicial body and follows procedure for hearing of settlement of claims as provided for in the RCT Act. No time frame, therefore, an be prescribed for finalisation of pending claims in RCT.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) 1. RCT (Procedure) Rules have been amended for speedy settlement of claims filed in RCT. The amendments provided for—

(a) Facility for the claimant to file the claim for accident cases at where the claimant normally resides, originating station, destination station as against only at place of occurrence earlier.

(b) Number of adjournments in each case restricted to three.

(c) RCT to pronounce an order within 21 days after the date of final hearing.

(d) To provide information with regard to status of pending cases and judgments of the Tribunal on internet, the functioning of RCT is being computerized.

2. Administrative measures in regard to expeditious settlement of Accident cases—

(i) An accident cell is set up under the Chief Claims Officer which monitors all cases of death, injury for providing relief.

(ii) Accident cell monitors the preparation of written Statements and supporting documents to facilitate early settlement of cases.

(iii) After the decree has been passed, a copy of the judgment is obtained and the cheque is prepared at the earliest.

3. Administrative measures in regard to Goods claims—

(i) Single window clearance for major commodities for expeditious settlement of claims cases.

(ii) Officers of Claims office and Accounts interact regularly to remove bottlenecks for early claims settlement.

(iii) Target time is laid down for claims settlement of different commodities and efforts made to process the cases within the time frame.

(iv) Regular meetings held with important customers for finalizing their claims.

(g) Does not arise.

Lack of Proper Facilities on Wardha-Yeotmal-Pusad-Nanded Sector

6552. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been tremendous economic and industrial development in the Wardha-Yeotmal-Pusad-Nanded sector and the sector lack proper railway facilities;

(b) whether the railways conducted a traffic survey for laying the broad gauge line on this sector;

(c) whether some bridges were also constructed but the work of laying the lines is yet to be taken in hand despite the earthwork having already been done;

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking up the work of laying a broad gauge railway lines on this important sector covering a distance of about 270 kms; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (e) A survey for construction of a new broad gauge line from Wardha to Nanded via Yavatmal, Pusad and Umerkhed (260 km.) was completed in 2001. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this 260 km long line was assessed as Rs. 459.76 crore with a rate of return of (-)2.056%. Due to unremunerative nature of the project, heavy throw forward of ongoing works and constraints of resources, it was not found feasible to consider the proposal.

ROB/RUB in Maharashtra

6553. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of over bridges/under bridges under construction in Maharashtra, alongwith present status thereof;

(b) the details of the proposals sent by the Government of Maharashtra for construction of over bridges/under bridges at level crossings;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon;

(d) the funds allocated for construction of such bridges during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for completion of these ROBs/RUBs as per their schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) All the firm proposals received from the State Govt. for construction of Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis as shown against (a) were sanctioned.

(d) The funds allocated for the works of Road over/ under bridge in Maharashtra State during last three years are as under:

2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Rs. 22.06 cr.	Rs. 26.63 cr.	Rs. 28.6 cr.

(e) Railways undertake work of bridge proper (over tracks) whereas approaches are to be done by State Govt./Road Authorities. however, all out efforts are made to complete the work of Railway portion before or simultaneously with the work of approaches by State Govt./Road Authorities.

Statement

Details of Road over bridges/under bridges under construction in Maharashtra, under cost sharing, BOT (Build, Operate & Transfer) & Deposit Schemes in Maharashtra along with present status thereof

Sl.No.	Work	Year of Sanction	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Chunabhati—ROB in lieu of LC No. 1-HB at Km. 13/12-13	1997-98	GAD could not be prepared because approach alignment is not finalized by MCGM.
2.	Niphad—ROB in lieu of LC No. 99B at Km. 218/8-9	1996-97	GAD approved. Detail estimate sent to PWD for acceptance on 3.8.2000. Acceptance awaited. State Govt. showed inability to share cost. They have proposed for BOT. Accordingly PWD submitted approach estimate on 4 Oct., 2002 which is under process.
3.	Sewri—ROB in lieu of LC No. 7A at 7/3-4	1997-98	GAD could not be prepared because approach alignment is not finalized by PWD. Decision of transfer of land to BPT on lease by State. PWD is not received Work is connected with Mumbai Trans Harbour Link Project and finalisation of project is awaited.
4.	Kurduwadi—ROB in lieu of LC No. 38A at Km. 375/13-14	2001-02	GAD approved on 15.11.2001. Estimate for approach work is awaited from State Govt. Work is being done on BOT basis.

1	2	3	4
5.	Vikhroli-ROB in lieu of LC No. 14-C at 22/11-12	1997-98	GAD could not be prepared because approach alignment is not finalized by BMC.
6.	Jeur-ROB in lieu of LC No. 33 A at Km. 342/3-4	2001-02	GAD approved. Detailed estimate is being scrutinized.
7.	Ulhasnagar-ROB in lieu of LC No. 3C at Km. 57/9-10	1999-2000	Work in railway portion completed. Work of approaches is in progress.
8.	Ramwadi-ROB in lieu of LC No. 55B at Km. 456/0-1	2001-02 BOT	GAD approved on 5.12.2002. Contact awarded by MSRDC.
9.	Badlapur-ROB in lieu of LC No. 10/B at Km. 66/19-20	1995-96	Work on railway portion likely to be completed by June 2003 and approaches by Municipal Corporation are in progress.
10.	Kalyan-ROB in lieu of LC No. 47B at Km. 57/16-58/18	2003-04	Work approved in WP 2003-04.
11.	Nagar Devla-ROB in lieu of LC No. 127 A at Km. 353/23-25	2003-04	Work approved in WP 2003-04.
12.	Boisar-Palghar-ROB in lieu of LC No. 51	1996-97	Railway work completed. Work by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation on approaches is in progress.
13.	Navade Road-ROB in lieu of LC No. 12A at Km. 60/4-5	2001-02	GAD approved Estimate sanctioned. Contract awarded. Work on railway portion is in progress.
14.	Hinganghat ROB in lieu of LC No. 13/A at Km. 790/3-36	2000-01	Proposal sponsored by PWD/NGP on cost sharing basis. Initial formalities are yet to be completed by NHAI.
15.	Bhayander-ROB in lieu of LC No. 35	1997-98	Work in railway portion completed. Work on approaches in progress.
16.	Shrirampur RUB at Km. 416/11-12	1999-2000	Work on railway portion completed.
17.	Kalyan ROB in lieu of LC No. 1/A at Km. 54/18-19	2003-04	Work sanctioned in WP 2003-04.
18.	Virar ROB in lieu of LC No. 40	1999-2000	Procurement of land for approaches awaited. MSRDC is to execute the approach work.
19.	Borivili-ROB in lieu of LC No. 33 at North of station	1995-96	Work in railway portion completed. Approaches in progress.
20.	Santacruz-Vile Parle ROB in lieu of LC No. 21	1996-97	Problems in rehabilitation of encroachments falling on the alignment of the approach. The work from Railway side can progress after BMC start the work.
21.	Kandivilli-Malad-ROB in lieu of LC No. 31	1996-97	Contract for main ROB awarded and work is in progress in Railway boundary.

1	2	3	4
22.	Pachora-RUB in lieu of LC No. 131/A at Km. 371/23-25	2002-03	Works sanctioned in supplementary demand for grants 2002-03. GAD asked from State Govt.
23.	Panvel-ROB (widening) at Km. 74/9-10.	2001-02 BOT	GAD Approved. Tender invited by NHAI and work in progress.
24.	ROB near Parbhani at Km. 289/7-9 in lieu of LC No.1 21/E	BOT	Work completed in Railway limits.
25.	Nagpur-Adilabad ROB at Km. 798/5-7	2001-02 BOT	Proposal and GAD awaited form NHAI.
26.	ROB at Jejuri in lieu of LC No. 20 at Km 58/9-10	BOT	GAD approved and advised party on 8.1.2002. Party has to arrange joint site inspection.
27.	ROB at Ichalkaranji in lieu of LC No. 20 at Km. 31/11/-12	BOT	General Arrangement & detailed drawings approved but kept pending as per party's request.
28.	ROB at Shelgaon in lieu of LC No. 9 at Km. 11/11-12	BOT	Bridge work completed. Miscellaneous works under progress.
29.	ROB at Rotegaon in lieu of LC No. 22 at Km. 52/1-2	BOT	Work completed.
30.	Ladgaon-ROB in lieu of LC No. 61 at Km. 133/7-8	BOT	Work completed
31.	Shelgaon-ROB in lieu of LC No. 71 Km. 161/2-3	BOT	Launching girders erected in Rly. Span and casting of girders under process.
32.	Zalta-ROB in lieu of LC No. 5 at Km. 124/15-16	1998-99 BOT	ROB completed.
33.	Virar ROB in lieu of LC No. 41	1998-99 BOT	Nagar Palika/PWD to decide the work.
34.	Naigaon-ROB at Naigaon MSRDC	1998-99 BOT	GAD approved. Design & Drawing under scrutiny. MSRDC to arrange land for approaches.
35.	Chembur—Widening of RUB at FCI circle at Km. 17/2-3-8.	1999-2000 BOT	GAD approved.
36.	Anand Talkies RUB at Km. 835/29-31	1999-2000 BOT	GAD finalized. MSRDC has proposed this work on BOT and is under execution of M/s. RITES
37.	Santra Market ROB at Km. 837/1 Nagpur yard.	2000-01 BOT	GAD received from RITES is in process of approval of divisional officers.
38.	Kedgaon-ROB in lieu of LC No. 11-B Km. 246/2-3	1999-2000 BOT	1. GAD finalized. Work in progress. 2. Superstructure-Girder launching completed. 3. Approaches—Completed.

1	2	3	4
39.	Manjari—ROB in lieu of LC No. 3A Km. 202/1-2	2001-02 BOT	GAD approved. Tender under finalisation with MSRDC.
40.	Chalisgaon-ROB at Km. 324/3-5	1999-2000 BOT	Work completed.
41.	Fekri-ROB in lieu of LC No. 1A. at Km. 450/3-4	2001-02 BOT	GAD approved. Tender is being invited by EE, NH Division, Jalgaon.
42.	Jasai-widening of ROB at Km. 89/12-13	2001-02 BOT	GAD approved. Contract awarded by NHAI. Work is in progress.
43.	Badnera-ROB at Km. 664/7-8	2001-02 BOT	Work is in progress. Girder cast. Approaches in progress.
44.	Kanjumarg—Widening of ROB at Km. 24/4-5	2001-02 BOT	Tender is being invited by MSRDC.
45.	Bhivandi-ROB at Km. 54/184	1999-2000 BOT	Work completed and commissioned on Aug. 2002.
46.	Alankar talkies widening of ROB near Pune at Km. 191/19-20	1996-97 Deposit	Land not handed over by Pune Municipal Corporation for abutments. Estimate sanctioned.
47.	Ulhasnagar-ROB at Km. 56/2	1991-92 Deposit	Contract awarded. Work in progress. All girders cast. Work of approaches in progress.
48.	Kalanagar-Widening of ROB at Km. 14/4/-5	1985-86 Deposit	Work of bridge substructure completed. Out of 3 spans launching of 2 spans completed and 3rd span is in progress.
49.	Bund-garden Widening of ROB at km. 192/6-7	1999-2000 Deposit	GAD approved. Work transferred from Deposit Term to BOT basis. MSRDC will initiate the tender.
50.	Ambernath-ROB for MIDC at km. 62/14-15	2001-02 Deposit	MIDC accepted the estimate. Design & Drawing are under proof check with IIT. Tender under finalisation.
51.	Chikaltana-Karma ROB at km. 160/5-6	1999-2000 Deposit	GAD approved. Awaiting deposit from State Govt.
52.	Dhamangaon ROB at Km. 709/19-21	1999-2000 Deposit	GAD finalized. Acceptance of estimate awaited from PWD.
53.	Kurla, Santacruz-Chembur link road crossing Rly. Track	1997-98 Deposit	Formal proposal not yet received from BMC. BMNC has not finalized alignment plan for approaches.
54.	Akurdi—ROB at Km. 172/11-12	1995-96 Deposit	Rly. portion completed. Approaches are in progress.
55.	Bombay-Ahmedabad RUB at Km. 76.18	1995-96 Deposit	Rly. portion completed. Approaches are in progress.

1	2	3	4
56.	Bimbari-Bhokar ROB at Km. 20/4-5	1999-2000 Deposit	Sanctioned estimate sent to PWD authorities to deposit the amount. Awaiting for depositing of funds by R&B.
57.	Kopri—ROB at Km. 31/13-14	1999-2000 Deposit	GAD finalized. Contract awarded.
58.	Vitava—Widening of ROB at Km. 34/4-5	1999-2000 Deposit	GAD finalized. Tender awarded.
59.	Stanvac Nagar—ROB at Km. 19/13-14	1997-98 Deposit	Detailed estimate sanctioned. BMC has not yet deposited the amount.
60.	Ghatkopar—Widening of ROB at Km. 18/15-16	1998-99 Deposit	Bridge proper completed. Approaches are in progress.
61.	Pimpri—Chinchwad Widening of ROB at Km. 175/12-13	1998-99 Deposit	Detailed estimate sanctioned. Tender schedule is under preparation. Land not yet handed over by PMC.
62.	Sancheti hospital-Widening of near Shivaji Nagar, Pune.	1996-97 Deposit	Land not handed over by Pune Municipal Corporation. Estimate sanctioned.
63.	Nanded—Pathenor-ROB at Km. 353/15-16	1999-2000 Deposit	Sanctioned estimate sent to PWD authorities to deposit the amount. Awaiting for deposit of funds by R&B.
64.	Vivekanand Nagar-ROB in lieu of LC No. 40A.	Deposit	Super structure in progress. Approaches in progress.

[Translation]

Facilities in Railway Stations under North-Eastern Railway

6554. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway Stations under North-Eastern Railway where there is no proper arrangement of light during night;

(b) whether the Government are aware that passengers are facing problems due to non-availability of water at various Railway Stations under North-Eastern Railway;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the facilities at these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) All the Railway stations under North Eastern Railway are electrified and adequate lighting arrangements exist during night. However, there are 63 halt stations in North Eastern Railway which are not electrified as they do not qualify the norms for electrification.

(b) to (d) Drinking water is generally available at all stations of North-Eastern Railway. However, there may be occasional short supplies because of various reasons, viz. short supply of water by Municipalities, electrical load shedding by State Electricity Board and equipment breakdowns etc. Railway endeavours to attend to such occasional problems also by coordinating with concerned State Government/Municipal authorities to attend the equipment breakdowns, in the minimum possible time.

[English]

Foreign Assistance for Improving Signalling and Telecommunication System in Railways

6555. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways has been receiving foreign assistance for signalling and telecommunication and other services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total assistance received by Indian Railways from foreign countries for improving the Indian system of Railways; and

(d) the number of proposals put forward by the Indian Railways for foreign assistance for improving Indian Railways under the loan agreement scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following external assistance is currently being availed for Railway projects:

(i) Loan of DM 185 million from Kreditanstalt fur Wiederafbau (KfW), Germany to finance the project of Modernisation of Signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur.

(ii) Loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of US Dollar 305 million and a credit from International Development Association (IDA) of US Dollar 60 million to finance the rail component of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP).

(c) Railways have availed 20 loans/credits amounting to about US Dollar 2.27 billion from World Bank and Asian Development Bank, eight loans amounting to US Dollar 140.84 million from USA and OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) and 23 loans/credits/ grants from Canada, Germany, Japan, UK, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and France in their respective currencies.

(d) A Railway Sector Loan of US Dollars 313.6 million has been approved by Asian Development Bank (ADB). This loan will be used to finance some of the National Rail Vikas Yojana projects. It is also planned to pose some National Rail Vikas Yojana projects and some Safety Works to the World Bank.

Malayalam Programme on Doordarshan

6556. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Malayalam Programme on National Doordarshan has been stopped abruptly;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard and direct the Doordarshan authorities to revive the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that only the VLPT at Lakshadweep has stopped relaying Malayalam programmes. On the request of viewers from the Islands, DD National Programmes (DD-I) are being relayed.

[Translation]

Plastic Sleepers

6557. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is contemplating to use plastic sleepers in place of wooden and RCC sleepers being used at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether plastic sleepers could be manufactured as per requirement; and

(d) if so, the locations where factories for manufacturing such sleepers are proposed to be set up alongwith the annual production capacity to be installed in each such factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. For use on Girder Bridges, as an alternative to wooden sleepers, trials are being conducted.

(b) Two types of sleepers viz. Fibre Reinforced (FRP) and Advanced Composite sleepers have been successfully tested and field trials are in progress.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No decision has been taken to set up factories for manufacturing of such sleepers as yet as the trials are still on. These are being developed by private manufacturers as per Railway's requirements.

[English]

Implementation of Various Welfare Schemes/ Programmes in Jharkhand

6558. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NGOs have been involved in the implementation of various welfare schemes/programmes in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance given to the State during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the work of NGOs in Jharkhand; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of financial assistance given to NGOs under different welfare schemes in Jharkhand State during the last two years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. NGOs are released grant only after receiving inspection reports from State Governments recommending release of grant to them.

Statement

Release of funds to NGOs under welfare schemes in the State of Jharkhand during 2001-02 & 2002-03

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	2001-02	2002-03
	Scheduled Caste Development		
1.	Assistance to VOs for Scheduled Castes	1.90	0.00
	Other Backward Classes		
2.	Assistance to VOs for Other Backward Classes	1.05	1.23
	Welfare of the Persons with Disabilities		
3.	Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities	7.00	20.94
4.	Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances	1.00	4.00
	Social Defence		
5.	Scheme for Prohibition & Substance (Drug) Abuse Prevention	13.21	28.60
6.	Scheme for welfare of Street Children	0.00	2.76

Losses to Mejia Thermal Power Station

6559. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the losses to Mejia Thermal Power Project by rail transportation during the last three years;

(b) whether reduction coal price is being made at penal rate:

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the same person was awarded the order for years and reasons therefor; and

(e) the amount of coal required to generate the electricity per year and the amount of coal required from BCCL, ECL per year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) There is occasional loss of coal during transit by rail from Eastern Coalfield Limited (ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) but the same is within reasonable limit.

(b) and (c) As the loss is due to pilferage in transit, reduction of coal price at penal rate could not be applied on any agency.

(d) All the contracts of DVC are processed through tendering procedures and awarded to the technically acceptable lowest bidder.

(e) The quantity of coal depends upon the electricity produced in a year. The amount of coal procured and consumed from BCCL and ECL during the last three years is as under:

(Figures in MT)

Year	Qnty. of coal procured		Qnty. of coal consumed
	From BCCL	From ECL	
2000-01	1741475	182266	1866098
2001-02	2094102	5294	1941788
2002-03	1986325	11494	2275422

Transmission and Distribution Losses of State Electricity Boards

6560. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the transmission and distribution loss of each of the State Electricity Boards/States during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the transmission and distribution loss before the reform is undertaken in the concerned States and after that, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the steps are being taken to reduce huge T&D loss of SEBs/Companies/States;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the theft of electricity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, Sector-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) A statement indicating the year-wise and State-wise Transmission & Distribution losses from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is enclosed.

(b) Distribution reforms in the form of Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) now rechristened as Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), was launched only in February, 2001. The State-wise/year-wise transmission and distribution loss after the reforms were undertaken in the concerned States can be assessed only after the audited figures upto the year 2001-02 are made available by the State Electricity Boards/Utilities.

(c) In order to upgrade the sub-transmission and distribution network with the objective of accomplishing reduction of transmission and distribution (technical and commercial) losses, reduction in cash losses by State Electricity Boards/Utilities and supply of reliable and interruption free power, the Government of India introduced the APDRP. APDRP includes upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network, energy audit activities and metering in a phased manner.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

Statement

Percentage Transformation, Transmission & Distribution losses (including commercial losses such as pilferage etc.) in SEBs/EDs

(%)

Region/SEB/ED	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
1	2	3	4
Northern Region			
Haryana (HVPN)	34.04	35.33	38.28
Himachal Pradesh	20.13	26.11	22.41
Jammu & Kashmir	49.95	47.64	44.90
Punjab	18.94	18.11	18.40
Rajasthan (RRVPNL)	26.41	29.53	30.44
Uttar Pradesh(UPPCL)	26.18	30.23	39.83

1	2	3	4
Chandigarh	22.38	22.48	24.70
DVB (Delhi)	47.91	43.71	46.29
Western Region			
Gujarat	21.57	20.83	21.59
Madhya Pradesh	19.58	19.87	32.38
Maharashtra	18.75	18.41	32.28
D&N Haveli	12.90	15.37	31.69
Goa	31.02	30.40	27.56
Daman & Diu	14.69	21.83	11.33
Southern Region			
Andhra Pradesh	32.14	34.09	37.13
Karnataka (KPTCL)	19.31	30.45	38.22
Kerala	18.73	17.18	17.05
Tamil Nadu	17.29	17.22	16.83
Lakshadweep	15.70	12.78	10.13
Pondicherry	13.56	10.44	12.25
Eastern Region			
Bihar	16.26	24.80	21.43
Orissa (GRIDCO)	50.10	36.72	5.62@
Sikkim	22.87	12.44	12.07
West Bengal	19.67	23.73	27.79
A&N Islands	20.59	20.03	16.52
North Eastern Region			
Assam	27.32	38.72	38.96
Manipur	21.09	59.55	62.06
Meghalaya	12.28	19.66	27.66
Nagaland	29.79	26.52	32.32
Tripura	31.11	26.82	29.63
Arunachal Pradesh	34.10	30.60	47.12
Mizoram	46.84	44.79	47.63
All India (Utilities)	24.79	26.45	30.93

*Provisional.
@For 1999-2000 in case of Orissa the losses are for GRIDCO only.

Implementation of Schemes with the help of NGOs

6561. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken necessary steps to implement various schemes with the help of NGOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof with special reference to NGOs involvement in Mumbai; and

(c) the amount of funds made available by the Government for these schemes during 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and funds likely to be allotted for 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Schemes as per statement are implemented with the involvement of Voluntary Organisations.

(b) The position in Mumbai is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	No. of NGO funded	Amount released in 2002-03 Rs. in lakh
1.	Scheme to promote Voluntary Action with Disabilities	8	99.91
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances	1	0.75
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse	2	16.45
4.	Integrated Programme for Street Children	11	110.90
5.	General Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the Field of Social Defence	1	4.86
	Total	23	232.87

(c) Funds allocated to Schemes implemented through NGOs are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Expenditure
2001-02	191.19
2002-03	221.40
	Budget Allocation
2003-04	219.14

Statement

The details of scheme run by NGOs under the guidelines and supervision of the Ministry are as follows:—

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme
PLAN	
1.	Promote to Voluntary Action with Disabilities
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme)
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse
4.	General grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence
5.	Integrated Programme for Street Children
6.	Integrated Programme for Older persons
7.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organization for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs)
8.	Coaching & Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities
9.	Assistance to Voluntary Organizations working for the Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)
NON-PLAN	
10.	Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutes/ Voluntary Organizations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons

Pilot Project to Introduce Internet Services

6562. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any pilot project to introduce internet services on the railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of the trains, the routes and stations falling in South Central Railway Zone earmarked for providing these internet services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. RailTel Corporation of India Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways, is planning to provide, as pilot projects, internet kiosks at New Delhi Railway Station and internet service on one of the trains, during 2003-04. The train and route are under finalisation.

Inspection of Cantonments and Defence Land

6563. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice and requirement of annual inspection of Cantonments and defence lands by Defence Estate Directorate General has been discontinued since last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the details of Cantonments, Military, Airforce and Naval stations inspected during last three years and the action taken on deficiencies revealed in inspection report;

(c) whether the area under encroachments has increased during last three years and several defence lands and buildings have been diverted for non-defence purposes;

(d) if so, the action taken and propose to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether any action has been taken against any defence estate service officer for failure to safeguard defence lands during last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details of Cantonments/Military Stations and Defence Estates Offices inspected during last three years by Defence Estates Department has been indicated in the statement attached. The deficiencies pointed out in the inspection report are required to be monitored by the controlling officers in Command Headquarters for compliance by the field officers.

(c) and (d) Encroachments have increased marginally in certain areas whereas it has decreased in some areas. Action for removal of encroachments is taken under the provisions of the Cantonments Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants), Act, 1971.

Approximately, an area of 4638 acres has been removed from encroachment during the last 3-5 years.

Certain instances of diversion of defence land/ buildings for the purpose of schools, shopping complexes and welfare Institutes etc. have been noticed by the Government. Appropriate directions have been issued to all concerned in such cases as a remedial measure.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. Disciplinary action has been initiated against five officers of the Defence Estates Organisation during the last three years for failure to safeguard defence land.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Station
1	2
1.	Mhow
2.	Ambala
3.	Jutogh
4.	Belgaum
5.	Cannanore
6.	Jabalpur
7.	Delhi
8.	Jalandhar
9.	Deolali
10.	Kamptee
11.	Varanasi
12.	Kanpur
13.	Kasauli
14.	Amritsar
15.	Secunderabad
16.	Agra
17.	Bareilly
18.	Ahmednagar
19.	Wellington
20.	Ajmer
21.	Allahabad
22.	Danapur
23.	Nasirabad
24.	Kamptee
25.	Pune
26.	St. Thomas Mount
27.	Jammu
28.	Srinagar
29.	Dalhousie
30.	Bakloh
31.	Khas Yol
32.	Shillong
33.	Barrackpore
34.	Jabalpur
35.	Lebond
36.	Mumbai
37.	Bangalore
38.	Jaipur
39.	Chennai
40.	Trivandrum
41.	Goa
42.	Leh
43.	Sabathu
44.	Ramgarh
45.	Danapur
46.	Bikaner
47.	Chandigarh
48.	Udhampur
49.	Pathankot
50.	Mathura
51.	Bakshi-ka-Talab AF Station

1	2
52.	Memora AF Stn.
53.	Chakeri AF Stn.
54.	Gayabad Mily. Stn.
55.	Dhana Mily. Stn.
56.	Bhopal Mily. Stn.
57.	Itarsi Mily. Stn.
58.	Amla AF Station
59.	Maharajpur AF Stn.
60.	Ranohi Mily. Stn.
61.	Jamshedpur Mily. Stn.
62.	Bihta AF Station
63.	Darbhanga AF Station
64.	Singharsi AF Stn.
65.	Banbasa Mily. Stn.
66.	Hempur Mily. Stn.
67.	Haldwani Mily. Stn.
68.	Dharchula Mily. Stn.
69.	Pithoragarh Mily. Stn.
70.	Izatnagar Mily. Station
71.	Bhowali AF Stn.
72.	Air Force Selection Board, Varanasi
73.	17 Wing AF Stn. Gorakhpur
74.	GRD Kurnaghat, Ghorakpur
75.	COD Cheoki, Allahabad
76.	24 ED AF Station Manauri, Allahabad
77.	29 Wing AF Stn. Bamrauli, Allahabad
78.	AF Stn. Kheria, Agra
79.	Mily. Stn. Nawgong Distt., Chhatarpur

Note: Some stations have been inspected several times by different officers of Defence Estates Organisation—(AF stands for Air Force and Mily stands for Military).

Finance for SIPAT-I Power Project

6564. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Finance Corporation has denied to provide further finances for SIPAT (I) power project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cost of the projects has doubled due to non-implementation of work as per schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated original cost and revised cost as on today; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have not posed its Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) Stage-I before Power Finance Corporation for raising debt.

(c) and (d) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in its Techno-Economic Clearance has cleared Sipat I (3x660 MW) at Rs. 7662.93 crores at first quarter 1999 price level for power station and facilities. Subsequently, as per Government's decision, switchyard was also included in NTPC scope for the power station and CEA has cleared cost of Rs. 236.81 crores at fourth quarter 2001 price level for the switchyard. Revised cost estimate shall be prepared only after placement of award for the main plant and other major packages and therefore variation in project cost will be known after the revised cost is prepared.

(e) The implementation of the project by NTPC is being monitored by the Government.

Non-Utilisation of Central Assistance by States

6565. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of State Governments who have failed to utilize the financial assistance given by the Central Government for various social schemes under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether the Central Government have asked for the reasons for non-utilization of the Central Assistance by these States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons given by the State Governments for this huge unspent balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) Details of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations who have not so far submitted utilization certificates State-wise under the schemes during Ninth Plan are given in the enclosed statement. State Governments have been asked to submit utilization certificates of funds released by the Government. It has been clarified that further grants would be released only after utilization certificates of previous releases have been received.

Statement

List of States/UTs not so far submitted utilization certificates under the schemes indicated below:

Name of the State/UTs	Name of the Scheme
1	2
Assam	(i) Book Bank for SCs
	(i) Upgradation of Merit
	(ii) National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers
Bihar	(i) Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan
	(ii) National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers
	(iii) Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs
	(iv) Hostels for OBC boys and girls
	(v) Pre-matric Scholarship for OBCs
Chhattisgarh	(i) Upgradation of Merit for SCs
	(ii) National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers
Goa	(i) Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan
1	2
	(ii) Book Bank for SCs
	(iii) Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs
Gujarat	(i) Coaching & Allied Scheme for SCs
	(ii) Upgradation of Merit
	(iii) National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers
Himachal Pradesh	(i) Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs
Jammu & Kashmir	(i) Coaching & Allied Scheme for SCs
	(ii) Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs
Jharkhand	(i) Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan
	(ii) Upgradation of Merit
	(iii) National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers
	(iv) Hostels for OBC boys and girls
Karnataka	(i) Coaching & Allied assistance for weaker sections including SCs, OBCs and Minorities
Kerala	(i) Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan
Madhya Pradesh	(i) National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scanvegers
	(ii Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs
Maharashtra	(i) Book Bank for SCs
	(ii) National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavenger
Manipur	(i) Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan
	(ii) Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs
	(iii) Scheme for Prevention and Control of Social Maladjustment
Orissa	(i) National Scheme for Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scanvegers
	(ii) Coaching & Allied Scheme for SCs
Punjab	(i) Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan

1	2
	(ii) Upgradation of Merit
	(iii) Book Bank for SCs
	(iv) Coaching & Allied Scheme for SCs
Rajasthan	(i) Coaching & Allied Scheme for SCs
	(ii) Book Bank for SCs
	(iii) National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scanvegers
Tamil Nadu	(i) Coaching & Allied Scheme for SCs
	(ii) Coaching & Allied assistance for weaker sections including SCs, OBCs and Minorities
	(iii) Book Banks for SCs
	(iv) National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers
	(v) Hostels for OBC boys and girls
Tripura	(i) Book Banks for SCs
	(ii) Upgradation of Merit for SCs
	(iii) Scheme for prevention and Control of Social maladjusted
	(iv) Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs
Uttaranchal	(i) Pre Matric Scholarship for OBCs
	(ii) Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs
	(i) Upgradation of Merit
	(iv) National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers
Uttar Pradesh	(i) Coaching & Allied Scheme for SCs
UTs	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	(i) Coaching & Allied Scheme for SCs
Chandigarh	(i) Book Bank for SCs
Delhi	(i) Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	(i) Book Bank for SCs
Pondicherry	(i) Upgradation of Merit
	(ii) Book Bank for SCs

Setting up of Sanitary Marts in All States

6566. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of setting up of Sanitary Marts in all the States have received a set back due to the tardy implementation of this scheme by some States;

(b) if so, the details of such States who have not yet set up even a single Sanitary Mart in any district;

(c) the details of State Governments who have set up Sanitary Marts in their respective States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Central Government to impress upon all the States having a sizeable population of scavengers to implement the scheme in the right earnest manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, the States of Assam, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal have not yet set up sanitary marts, even after availing Central assistance.

(c) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have set up Sanitary Marts.

(d) The matter has been taken up with the State Governments from time to time for expeditious setting up of Sanitary Marts.

Increase in Tariff of Power

6567. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the States who have increased power tariff during 2002-2003;

(b) the reasons advanced by them for the increase in the power tariff;

(c) whether his Ministry propose to issue guidelines to the States to have a uniform power tariff; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) In fifteen States and two Union Territories power tariffs have been revised/increased during the year 2002-03. The names of the States/UTs are given in the enclosed Statement. Tariff revisions are necessitated by increase in the cost of supply.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above does not arise.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Assam
3.	Goa
4.	Gujarat
5.	Jammu & Kashmir
6.	Karnataka
7.	Kerala
8.	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Manipur
10.	Mizoram
11.	Orissa
12.	Punjab
13.	Tamil Nadu
14.	Uttar Pradesh
15.	West Bengal
16.	Pondicherry
17.	Daman & Diu

PFC and REC Assistance to Andhra Pradesh Power Distribution Company

6568. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) are providing financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Company Limited (APCPDCL) for procurement of single Phase Energy meters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether APCPDCL have cancelled the orders mid-way placed on BHEL and other firms; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the REC and PFC to prevail upon APCPDCL for the restoration and completion of orders placed on BHEL and others and the reaction of the APCPDCL thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is providing financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Company Limited (APCPDCL) for purchase of single phase energy meters. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has not released any financial assistance to APCPDCL.

(b) The details of financial assistance provided by PFC to APCPDCL for purchase of single phase energy meters are as under:

Scheme	Date of Sanction	Sanction amount	No. of Single phase meters	Status
Providing trivector meters for 11 KV feeders and high quality electromechanical meters for LT consumers	4.2.2003	Rs. 157.70 Crore	6,00,000 (approx. value Rs. 120 crore)	Loan documents are yet to be executed
Counterpart funding for Hyderabad City Distribution Circle under APDRP	9.12.2002	Rs. 153.64 Crores	5.38 lakhs (approx. value Rs. 53.78 crore)	Loan documents are yet to be executed

(c) PFC is not aware of placement of any order by APCPDCL or cancellation of it to BHEL and other suppliers.

(d) Question do not arise in view of above.

Track Condition between Junai and Rangiya

6569. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway line between Rangiya to Junai is in a very bad shape and ill-maintained;

(b) if so, the details of the fractures detected, repaired and portions, if any, replaced and renewed during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-03; and

(c) the cost of maintenance and repairs incurred in respect of this line during these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Details of fractures and renewals carried out in last two years are as under:

Year	No. of fractures	Renewals done
2001-02	3	Nil
2002-03	4	Sleeper renewal (Secondary) 17.5 kms

(c) The cost of maintenance during 2001-02 and 2002-03 was about Rs. 80 lakh and Rs. 60 lakh respectively.

Allotment of Retail Outlets in Punjab

6570. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4752 on December 19, 2002 and state:

(a) whether any procedure has been laid down for allotment of retail outlets dealership by Oil Marketing Companies after the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of retail outlets dealership allotted on adhoc basis in Punjab by IBP and HPCL under non-approved Marketing Plan;

(d) whether the Government have instructed the IBP not to make such allotments; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Consequent on dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the Petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the selection of retail outlet dealers will be made by the oil marketing companies themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them.

(c) 11 retail outlet dealerships have been allotted by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) on ad hoc basis outside the approved Marketing plans in the State of Punjab. However, no retail outlet dealership has been allotted on ad hoc basis outside the approved Marketing Plans by IBP Co. Limited (IBP) in the State of Punjab.

(d) and (e) The Government have not issued any such instructions.

Bagga Committee Report

6571. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bagga Commission constituted by the Government for assured career progression for army officers has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, when and the reasons for which the report has been put in the back burner after the Kargil War was over;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the Bagga Commission report at the earliest; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of the Special Secretary, Ministry of Defence on 16th July 2001 to examine Army Headquarters' proposals for the restructuring of the Officers' Cadre of the Army. The Committee's Report has since been submitted. The recommendations contained therein are currently being examined.

[Translation]

Power Generation

6572. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of power generated in Maharashtra at present;

(b) the total demand for power in the State along with the measures taken to meet it; and

(c) the details of MoUs signed by the State Government to increase generation of power in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The quantum of power generated in Maharashtra for the year 2002-03 and during April, 2003 is given below:

Sector	Generation in MU	
	2002-003	April 2003
State Sector		
Thermal	57231	4998
Hydro	5372	437
Total	62603	5435
Central Sector		
Nuclear	2544	150
Grand Total	65147	5585

(b) During the year 2002-03, the power supply position in the State of Maharashtra was as under:

Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)	
Requirement	87152	Peak Demand	13697
Availability	75472	Peak Met	10984
Shortage	11680	Deficit	2713
%	13.4	%	19.8

Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned. The following measures have been taken to augment availability of power in Maharashtra:

(i) Allocation from unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations in Western Region has been increased from 11% (89 MW) to 20% (162 MW) with effect from 03.01.03 and further increased to 24.5% (228 MW) with effect from 28.3.03.

(ii) 80 MW allocated from unallocated quota of NTPC Stations in Eastern Region with effect from 21.4.03.

(iii) The Maharashtra State Electricity Board has tied up arrangement for purchase of 350 MW during off-peak period and 100 MW on round the clock basis through Power Trading Corporation.

(iv) Maximization of generation at existing power stations by reducing period of overhauls.

(v) Implementation of Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension [R&M & LE] Schemes for old and inefficient generating units for overall improvement in generation performance. 5 schemes of Renovation and Modernization costing Rs. 88.46 crores were sanctioned under Accelerated Power Development Programme [APDP] during 2000-01. An amount of Rs. 44.24 crores (APDP part.) was sanctioned and released. Power Finance Corporation has also released the balance counterpart funding.

(vi) During 10th Plan, besides capacity addition of 500 MW in State Sector and 1444 MW in Private Sector in Maharashtra, generation capacity of 5367 MW is planned to be added in Central Sector in Western region in which Maharashtra will have entitlements.

(vii) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme [APDRP] has been launched to bring about reforms in electricity distribution in the States by reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses.

(c) MOU has been signed between Government of Maharashtra and Ministry of Power, Government of India on 16.3.01 as a joint-commitment to undertake reforms in a time-bound manner.

The memorandum of Understanding inter-alia stipulates:

(i) Government of Maharashtra will introduce time of the day metering for HT Consumers for demand side management and flattering of demand curve.

(ii) Government of Maharashtra will take action to improve availability of its thermal generation plants from 80% to 85% by 2005.

(iii) Maharashtra State Electricity Board will identify areas with low power factor loads and high agricultural consumption for installation of capacitors in transmission and distribution system.

China Visit

6573. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited China recently;

(b) if so, the objectives behind his visit; and

(c) the outcome of the said visit?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Raksha Mantri visited China from April 21-27, 2003.

(b) The visit was aimed at building greater trust, confidence and cooperation between the two countries, including through greater defence related contacts, exchanges and relations with a view to facilitating a resolution of problems over time.

(c) The visit provided an opportunity to meet with the new generation of the Chinese leadership, exchange views with the Chinese leadership on domestic, international and bilateral issues of mutual interest and concern and explore areas of complementarity and cooperation between the two countries, including in the defence sphere. The meeting has paved the way for better relations between two large Asian neighbours which have historically enjoyed good relations.

Permission to Oil India Limited for Marketing of Products

6574. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to grant permission to Oil India Limited (OIL) for marketing of its products, under its policy to allow all oil companies in public sector to deal in all types of business from oil exploration to marketing of oil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government have not received any such proposal from M/s. Oil India Limited for granting authorisation to market transportation fuels.

[English]

Revised Mega Power Policy

6575. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a revised mega power policy to develop mega power projects in both private and public sector for supplying power to more than one State;

(b) if so, the details of mega power projects functioning at present along with their generation capacity and the States to which they are supplying power; and

(c) the details of payment support mechanism adopted for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The revised Mega Power Policy of he Government of India announced in November, 1998, identified 19 mega power projects. Details are given in the enclosed Statement. In addition to the projects listed in the Statement, the Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (4X660 MW) being implemented by the National Thermal Power Corporation in Chhattisgarh, has been accorded mega power project status by the Government of India in December, 2001. The Government has further liberalised the mega power policy by extending the benefits of mega power projects to:

(i) an inter-State thermal power plant of a capacity of 1000 MW or more; or

(ii) an inter-State hydel power plant of a capacity of 500 MW or more,

if it fulfils the conditions for mega power projects.

(b) None of the mega Power Projects have started generation so far.

(c) For the identified Mega Power Projects in the private sector, the revised Mega Power Policy of the Government of India announced in November, 1998 provides establishment of a power trading company (PTC). Security to the PTC was to be provided by means of a Letter of Credit and recourse to the State's share of Central Plans Allocation and other devolutions.

For the identified Mega Power Projects in the public sector, the payment support mechanism to be adopted is as per the agreement between the generating company and the purchasers.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the project/State	Capacity (MW)
Private Sector		
1.	Hirma Thermal Power Project, Orissa	3960
2.	Cuddalore Thermal Power Project, Tamil Nadu	1000
3.	Krishnapatnam Thermal Power Project, Andhra Pradesh	1500
4.	Pipavav Thermal Power Project, Gujarat	2000
5.	Narmada Thermal Power Project (LNG), Gujarat	1000
Public Sector		
1.	Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project Stage-II, NTPC, Bihar	1500
2.	North Karanpura Thermal Power Project, NTPC, Bihar	2000
3.	Barh Thermal Power Project Stage-I, NTPC, Bihar	2000
4.	Maithon Thermal Power Project, Damodar Valley Corporation	1000
5.	Cheyyur Thermal Power Project, Stage-I NTPC, Tamil Nadu	1500
6.	Anta CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Rajasthan	1300
7.	Auraiya CCPP, NTPC, Uttar Pradesh	1300
8.	Kawas CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat	1300
9.	Gandhar CCPP Stage-II, NTPC, Gujarat	1300
10.	Koel Karo HEP, NHPC, Bihar	710
11.	Chamera HEP Stage-II, NHPC, Himachal Pradesh	300
12.	Teesta HEP Stage-V, NHPC, Sikkim	510
13.	Koldam HEP, NTPC, Himachal Pradesh	800
14.	Parvati HEP Stage-II, NHPC, Himachal Pradesh	800

[Translation]

Incentive to States to Minimise the Losses

6576. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started a scheme to give incentive to the States to minimize the loss in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentive given by the Government under the said scheme during the year 2002-2003, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) approved by the Government of India on March 31, 2003, has an incentive component to encourage/ motivate State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Utilities to reduce cash losses. Under this scheme, 50% of actual cash loss reduction by the SEBs/Utilities will be given as grant by the Government of India to respective States. During the financial year 2002-03, three States viz., Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana have shown cash loss reduction to the tun of Rs. 579.74 crore, Rs. 1072.29 crore and Rs. 10.02 crore respectively and have become eligible for incentive of Rs. 289.87 crore, Rs. 536.245 crore and Rs. 5.01 crore respectively. So far, incentives to these States amounting to Rs. 137.89 crore, Rs. 236.37 crore and Rs. 5.01 crore respectively have been released on March 31, 2003.

[English]

Pay Scale of Data Entry Operators

6577. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pay Scale of Data Entry Operators working in JCB has been revised after the judgement of CAT;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the said judgement has not been implemented by the Government so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In their judgement dated 12.12.2001 in OA No. 3316/2001 and MA No. 2749/2001 the Hon'ble Tribunal (PB) had directed the Department to consider the representations submitted by the Data Entry Operators, Data Processing Assistants and Junior programmers in JCB, requesting for revision of their pay scales with effect from 1.1.1986 instead of 11.9.1989. A proposal for implementing the revised pay scales notified under Government letter dated 8.1.1991 with effect from 1.1.1986 instead of 11.9.1989 was taken up with Department of Expenditure. That department has not accepted the proposal on the ground that no general order has been issued to allow the revised pay scales wef 1.1.1986 instead of 11th September 1989.

(e) Does not arise.

Loan to Kerala

6578. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration before the Government of India to restructure and reschedule the undertakings of REC and PFC's loans of Rs. 1197.22 crores and Rs. 134.06 crores respectively by waiving and relaxing the conditions insisting Government guarantee for loan of Kerala State Electricity Board in order to reduce rate of interest; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) has submitted proposal to Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for restructuring of loans amounting to Rs. 264.14 crores. REC has offered to restructure its loan by replacing its high cost loans with loans carrying the current lower rate of interest. Under the scheme, REC would take 50% of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the difference between the existing and the new rate. The balance 50% would be waived. As far as Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is concerned, there is no proposal pending with them to restructure and reschedule the loans amounting to Rs. 134.06 crores of KSEB. However, PFC has restructured

the loans of KSEB amounting to Rs. 100 crores in December, 2002 on their request as per the policy of the corporation.

[Translation]

FDI in Print Media

6579. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a final decision in regard to FDI in Print Media;

(b) if so, whether the notification have been issued in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government have explored possibilities to get benefit of FDI in print media as to earn profit from the investment;

(d) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise;

(e) the details of foreign investors who have offered to invest in print media in various newspapers/magazines, country-wise:

(f) the number of such proposals approved/rejected by the Government for FDI in print media;

(g) whether the Government have failed to allay the apprehensions of the Print Media in regard to I.P.O. and equity; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. In partial modification of the policy being followed since 1955 in regard to foreign investment in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals, it has been decided to:

(i) allow foreign investment upto 74% in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals.

(ii) allow publication of Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and speciality magazines/ periodicals/journals.

(iii) allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 26% of paid up equity capital in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs, subject to suitable safeguards.

(b) The guidelines in this regard have been issued on 12th November 2002 and 21st November 2002 respectively.

(c) and (d) The recent policy changes regarding foreign investment in print media aim to bring in greater diversity among the dailies, open a window to international best practices in print media and also enable the Indian newspapers and periodicals to become comparable in quality with their international counterparts as also to benefit the youth, students, professionals and the scientific and technical community and readers interested in special subjects, by providing better and affordable access to specialist periodicals. It is too early to gauge the financial implications of the decision.

(e) No proposal seeking approval to fresh investment in print media in various newspapers/magazines from any foreign investors has been received so far.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g) and (h) The concerns expressed in various quarters have been addressed while arriving at the decision of allowing FDI in print media.

[English]

Dues Against Broadcasters

6580. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan owe a whopping amount from the official broadcaster;

(b) if so, the details of the broadcasters;

(c) the amount due against respective broadcasters; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to realise the due amount from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI

SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Doordarshan is the Television Wig of Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), established by an Act of Parliament in 1990 and notified in September 1997. Doordarshan is the national statutory public service broadcaster. There is no question of Doordarshan owing a whopping amount to the official broadcaster. However, there are agencies, which owe money to Doordarshan, the statutory broadcaster.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Fire in NFAI

6581. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 422 dated February 20, 2003 regarding 'Fire in FTII and NFAI, Pune' and to state:

(a) whether a high level inquiry set up for this purpose has been given exact cause of the fire;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the rare film prints/ documentaries destroyed in the fire; and

(c) the concrete plan to protect the valuable Archives of Prasar Bharati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The high level inquiry has concluded that there is a strong possibility, in the absence of any other evidence to the contrary, that the fire may have been caused due to electrical short circuit in one window AC out of the four ACs installed in the nitrate vault.

(b) 607 films (5095 reels) stored in nitrate base were destroyed in the fire on 8.1.2003. Most of the films destroyed in the fire were copied on to the safety base and are safely preserved in National Film Archives of India (NFAI) and only 544 reels, not transferred to the safety base, were lost. These comprised mostly single reels and incomplete films.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the archival material is not being neglected. A separate unit under a senior officer is looking after the archival tapes, which are kept in air-conditioned rooms. In addition, AIR has, inter-alia, taken the following steps for preservation of its archives:

(i) A Rs. 3 crore project has been undertaken since November, 2001 to digitalize the old recordings available on magnetic tapes;

(ii) The contents of the magnetic tapes in the archives are being transferred in electronic formats, which are resistant to wear and tear;

(iii) Special archival cupboards are being provided for storage of digitalized archival material, and a highly sophisticated refurbishing mechanism has been installed in Akashwani Bhawan with assistance of UNDP.

About 13000 hours of archival recordings have already been digitalized.

Use of CNG

6582. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether compressed natural gas is being used as fuel at cremation grounds in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any plan to encourage use of CNG for crematoriums in the country on a large scale;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No Sir. However, Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) is discussing for gas supply to one crematorium at Mulund, Mumbai for which pipeline has already been laid.

(b) to (d) Presently, natural gas is being supplied for domestic, commercial and CNG purposes in Mumbai, Delhi and some other cities in Gujarat. In such places natural gas can be utilized as a clean fuel in crematoriums also. The initiative in this regard has to be taken by the respective State Governments and Municipal bodies.

[Translation]

Disinvestment of HMT

6583. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvest its stake in H.M.T.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether tenders have been invited for open bidding;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of tenders received so far for disinvestment; and

(e) the total amount expected to .be realized on account of disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) So far only Expressions of Interest (EOI) have been invited for joint venture formation for various units. EOIs have been received for HMT Bearings, HMT Watches and HMT Chinar Watches. No EOI was received for HMT Machine Tools.

(e) Since price bids have not been received so far the amount expected to be realized cannot be specified at this stage.

[English]

Incident of Dacoity in G.T. Express

6584. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incident of looting had occurred in the G.T. Express near Ajhae-Chata between Agra and Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of people looted and the worth or belongings looted in the incident;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide compensation to the victims;

(d) the number of incidents of looting, dacoity and murders occurred since January, 2002 till date and the number of criminals arrested as on date; and

(e) the arrangement made by the Government to provide security to rail passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. On 9.3.2003 between Kosikalan-Chata, 4-5 armed criminals looted 8 passengers of general coach of Train No. 2615 Dn. G.T. Express in between Kosikalan—Chata on Central Railway.

(b) Cash Rs. 5600 gold chain and silver ornaments were looted from 8 passengers.

(c) Railway Administration is responsible for loss of theft of booked luggage only.

(d) Prevention and detection of crime on Railways, including running trains, is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP). Therefore, information asked for in the question is not readily available with the Ministry of Railways.

(e) 'Policing' being a subject matter of the State Government, security to passengers is the responsibility of Government Railway Police (GRP) and State Police. The Railway administration assists the Government Railway Police (GRP) in escorting the passenger trains apart from manning the stations in vulnerable sections.

[Translation]

New Technique in Power Distribution

6585. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new technique has been developed in the power sector under which the distribution is likely to be controlled from sub-stations and super monitoring and distribution related information can also be exchanged;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said technique is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Technologies exists for controlling and monitoring and acquisition of data from substation level. Such system usually is called Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System. Such systems are used for acquiring sub station data like bus bar voltage, current etc. and remotely operated switches.

(c) States like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have introduced SCADA System in Hyderabad and Chennai to control and monitor distribution at substation/feeder level. Distribution automation below feeder level has not been done by any State/Utility so far.

Tribal Land Acquired by HEC

6586. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2930 dated March 16, 2001 regarding "Acquiring Land for HEC, Ranchi" and to state:

(a) whether the post acquisition compensation and other benefits provided to the tribals are inadequate;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide adequate benefits to the affected people in lieu of their land acquired by Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Adequate compensation and other benefits were provided to the affected families, including tribals.

(c) Not applicable.

[English]

Wakf Tribunals

6587. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to constitute Wakf Tribunals in all States and Union Territories to take care of Wakf properties and fix Imams salaries;

(b) if so, the number of States and Union Territories where these tribunals are not in existence; and

(c) the time by which this exercise will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) As per Section 83 of the Wakf Act, 1995, the State/UT Governments have to constitute the Tribunals in their respective States/UTs for the determination of any dispute, question or other matter relating to a Wakf or Wakf property under this Act.

(b) and (c) The following States/UTs have not yet constituted the Wakf Tribunals:

(1) Arunachal Pradesh

(2) Assam

(3) Goa

(4) Mizoram

(5) Nagaland

(6) Sikkim

(7) Daman & Diu

Of the above 7 States, there is negligible Muslim population/Wakf properties in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Daman & Diu. Government of Assam has taken up the matter with the Guwahati High Court for constituting the Wakf Tribunals. In the State of Goa due to absence of records of Wakf properties in the State, the State Government does not feel the need for any Tribunal.

[Translation]

Inland Container Depot at Bhiwadi

6588. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Inland Container Depot at Bhiwadi;

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan has also requested the Railways to connect Bhiwadi with Dharuheda-Rewari and Sirsa by the broad gauge rail line; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c)

Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Limited (RAJSICO) a Government of Rajasthan undertaking is already operating a road-linked Inland Container Depot (ICD) from Bhiwadi. There is no proposal to set up an ICD at Bhiwadi by Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) as it is already operating a rail-linked ICD from Rewari which is approximately 25 Kms from Bhiwadi.

(d) and (e) A request has been received from Government of Rajasthan for construction of rail line between Rewari-Bhiwadi. A survey for construction of rail-link between Rewari-Bhiwadi is in progress.

[English]

Disparity in Ration Scales

6589. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about wide disparity in the Ration Scale between Army and GREF officers/personnel;

(b) whether it is true that Army and GREF personnel work shoulder to shoulder in forward areas and working conditions of GREF are even more difficult to their counterparts in the Army;

(c) whether Army and GREF officers and personnel working together and dine together on the same table; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not removing disparity in scale of ration between Army and GREF and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is true that GREF personnel work together with the Armed Forces during operations. During peace, GREF personnel are primarily deployed for the construction of General Staff Roads for the Army in border areas. The working conditions of the GREF Personnel are as difficult as their counterparts in the Army.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has sanctioned ration at the Army scale to GREF personnel on the pattern applicable to the Central Para Military Force i.e. when they are engaged on work alongwise the Army, or ahead of the Army on International Border, or the line of Actual Control, or when they are under operational control of the Army, or on counter insurgency operation alongside the Army in border areas and disturbed areas.

Electrically Operated Lift Irrigation Points

6590. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the targets and achievement of installation of electrically operated Lift Irrigation Points during the Ninth Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the number of direct lift points from surface water, State-wise;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain per net acre cost for irrigation by Lift Irrigation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) State-wise targets and progress of pumpsets energisation during the 9th Five Year Plan is given at Statement-I.

(b) State-wise details of electrically operated lift points from surface water are given at Statement-II.

(c) According to Ministry of Water Resources, no such survey has been conducted.

(d) In view of above, question does not arise.

Statement I

State-wise Targets and Progress of Pumpset Energisation During IX Five Year Plan

Sl.No.	States/UTs	9th Plan Target	Pumpset energisation during the 9th Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	250000	113098
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
3.	Assam	5000	—

1	2	3	4
4.	Bihar	50000	6704
5.	Jharkhand (#)	—	—
6.	Goa	100	1045
7.	Gujarat	50000	141436
8.	Haryana	20000	18961
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1000	1889
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4000	1101
11.	Karnataka	250000	268699
12.	Kerala	60000	91268
13.	Madhya Pradesh	400000	169618
14.	Chhattisgarh (#)	—	10277
15.	Maharashtra	300000	275357
16.	Manipur	100	—
17.	Meghalaya	100	—
18.	Mizoram	—	—
19.	Nagaland	100	—
20.	Orissa	98000	4481
21.	Punjab	30000	85046
22.	Rajasthan	100000	114420
23.	Sikkim	100	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	60000	196763
25.	Tripura	100	764
26.	Uttar Pradesh	300000	62070
27.	Uttaranchal (#)	—	291
28.	West Bengal	20000	8740
	Total (States)	1998600	1572028
	Total (UTs)	—	2184
	Total (All India)	1998600	1574212

#Newly constituted States in 2000-2001.

Statement II

State-wise Electrically Operated number of Surface Lift Schemes as per the Second Census of Minor Irrigation Projects (1993-94)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of surface Lift Schemes
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16038
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	653
4.	Bihar	954
5.	Jharkhand (*)	—
6.	Goa	564
7.	Gujarat	NA
8.	Haryana	170
9.	Himachal Pradesh	500
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	320
11.	Karnataka	27762
12.	Kerala	7806
13.	Madhya Pradesh	133236
14.	Chhattisgarh ($)	—
15.	Maharashtra	NA
16.	Manipur	9
17.	Meghalaya	11
18.	Mizoram	1
19.	Nagaland	9
20.	Orissa	8889
21.	Punjab	465
22.	Rajasthan	161
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	2334
25.	Tripura	397
26.	Uttar Pradesh	720

1	2	3
27.	Uttaranchal (#)	—
28.	West Bengal	2877
	Total (States)	203876
	Total (UTs)	128
	Total (All India)	204004

Note: (*) Included in Bihar.
($) Included in Madhya Pradesh.
(#) Included in UP.

[Translation]

Safety of Rail Lines

6591. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sole responsibility of providing safety to rail lines and rail passengers in the Jharia coalfield area where the underground mines are catching fire, lies with the Railways alone;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken steps to protect the rail lines/rail passengers against the fire which has broken out in the underground mines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the agencies which owe the responsibility of providing protection against the aforesaid threat;

(e) whether the Railways has taken any assistance from the Directorate of mines safety in order to provide safety to rail lines against the fire of underground mines in Jharia coalfields; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) The safety of Railway passengers is ensured at all times.

Responsibility to provide safety to Rail lines and Rail passengers in Jharia Coalfield due to under ground mine fires etc. lies with the colliery authorities (under Ministry of Coal) and is enforced by Director General of Mines Safety (DG/MS) (under Ministry of Labour) for required protective and preventive measures against fire. Railway Mining Safety Wing situated at Dhanbad inspects regularly the condition of fires etc. under and adjacent to Railway lines and informs DG/MS and colliery authorities to take necessary protective measures to prevent fire, so as to ensure safety of Railway lines and Railway passengers.

There had been a problem of underground fires in Jharia Coalfield area. Ministry of Coal had requested for constitution of a committee by Ministry of Railways with participation from Ministry of Coal and Mines, local Administration and Coal Mines Officials. Accordingly, a committee was constituted in June, 2001. Meanwhile the then Minister for Coal and Mines, Government of India, had advised in October, 2001 that Railways need not wait for the recommendations of the Committee referred herein and in view of urgency of the situation, close the line without any further loss of time, to eliminate danger to life and property. The committee has since submitted their report. In order to ensure safety, the committee's recommendation to suspend passenger traffic on Dhanbad-Patherdih line, has been accepted and implemented since July 2002.

The Committee also made several other recommendations for extinguishing of fires and other preventive measures. These are to be acted upon by Ministry of Coal and Mines who have since been requested in July 02 and again in January 03 to take necessary action.

[English]

Vacant Posts of OBCs, SCs and STs

6592. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of categories of posts filled by OBCs, SCs and STs during the last three years;

(b) the details of posts lying vacant for want of suitable candidates; and

(c) the steps taken to fill these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The details of categories of posts filled by OBCs, SCs and STs during the last three years in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) The details of posts lying vacant in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for want of suitable candidates and the steps taken to fill those post are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Group	2000-01			2001-02			2002-03		
	OBC	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST
A	Nil	03	01	Nil	03	01	Nil	02	Nil
B	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	01	Nil	01	03	Nil
C	07	Nil	01	Nil	01	Nil	01	Nil	Nil
D	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Statement II

Post	OBC	SC	ST	Steps taken to fill these posts
Personal Assistant (Group 'B')	01	Nil	Nil	The vacancy has been intimated tot he Department of Personnel and Training.
Stenographer Grade 'D' (Group 'C')	01	01	01	The vacancies have been intimated to Department of Personnel and Training.
Cook (Group 'C')	Nil	01	Nil	Pre appointment formalities are being completed. The posts will be filled up shortly.
Bearer (Group 'D')	01	01	Nil	-Do-

[Translation]

Financial Loss Due to Rail Accidents

6593. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial loss suffered by Railways as a result of rail accidents since 2001 till date; and

(b) the action taken by Railways to make up the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) In the period 2001-02 and 2002-03, Railways suffered direct loss of Rs. 54.51 crore and Rs. 40.20 crore (Provisional) respectively on account of cost of damage to Railway property viz. Track, rolling stock, signalling infrastructure, overhead equipment, etc. due to consequential train accidents. Indirect financial losses on account of rail accidents are not assessed.

Prevention of accidents is the only way to reduce losses. Hence, regular preventive measures are undertaken to prevent accidents which include launching of safety drives, training of staff, introduction of reliable technology, and improved maintenance practices, etc.

[English]

Fake Army Booze

6594. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Huge racket in fake

Army Booze" as reported in the 'Times of India' dated April 12, 2003;

(b) if so, whether spurious liquor is being sold at several CSD outlets in connivance with the officials;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to break the nexus of officials and liquor sellers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Based on the newspaper report an investigation has been carried out which revealed that none of the spurious liquor was sold through any Canteen Stores Department Depots or Unit Run Canteens.

Revival Project for Different PSUs

6595. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to revive B.O.G.L., Hindustan Cable, Bridge & Roof, Bharat Earth Mover, Tyre Corporation of India, Burn Standard of Burnpur and Howrah Unit;

(b) if so, the details of the revial plan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Information is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the PSE	Status
1	2	3
1.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML)	BEML is a strategic PSE under the Ministry of Defence and it is continuously making profit. The question of revival plan does not arise.
2.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL)	BOGL was referred to BIFR in 1992. BIFR issued a show cause notice for winding up of the company in July, 2002.
3.	Bridge & Roof (B&R)	B&R is a profit making PSE. No revival plan need to be prepared.
4.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (TCIL)	BIFR have directed the Operating Agency to prepare a revival plan. Government of India have sanctioned following financial reliefs/concessions as per the Draft Revival Scheme (DRS) circulated by BIFR in February, 1999:
		(Rs. in crores)
		Waiver of interest on Plan and Non-Plan loan 79.24
		Waiver of outstanding Non-Plan loan 19.11
		Waiver of outstanding guarantee fee 1.94
		Rescheduling and conversion of Plan loan 5.55
		Rescheduling outstanding plan loan 65.74
		Cash infusion : 12.60
		Non-viable Tangra Unit has been closed as per BIFR order of October, 2000. Process for disinvestment/Joint Venture formation has been initiated for the Company.

1	2	3
5.	Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL)	HCL has been declared sick by BIFR. The operating agency, appointed by BIFR, is carrying out techno economic viability study of the PSE.
6.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd. (BSCL)	It is a sick Company referred to BIFR. On 9.12.02, BIFR ordered for the change of Management. Ministry of Disinvestment has issued an advertisement on 26.3.2003 for seeking Expression of Interest. Disinvestment route is considered as a revival measure for the PSE.

[Translation]

Removal of Encroachment in Delhi

6596. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are existed some encroachments on defence land in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite the order of the High Court, encroachment from the defence land in Delhi has not been removed so far;

(d) if so, the nature of the said encroachment and the persons involved in it; and

(e) the reasons for not removing these encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Approximately 100.2186 acres of Defence land is under encroachment in Delhi.

(c) In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, given on 6.2.2002 in Writ Petition No. 3761/2000, instructions have been issued to all concerned to take all possible steps for removal of encroachments on Defence land.

(d) and (e) Most of the encroachments are by various individuals in the form of extending their holdings, temporary/permanent buildings and huts etc. Action for removal of encroachments is taken under the provisions of Cantonments Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The process of detection and removal of encroachments is a continuous exercise. Some of the encroachments are under litigation and their removal is subject to Court orders.

[English]

Plan to Embark on Corporate Ladder

6597. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 532 on 20 February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Railways are now planning to embark on corporate ladder like the other public sector units;

(b) whether the Railways do not have any linking of any account keeping or management as is clear from the fact that they have no idea of profit and loss on running of Shatabdi Trains;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to expedite the matter with caution with the kind of infrastructure and talent they have at command; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Accounts of Ministry of Railways are maintained under laid down Accounting Heads which have been prescribed in consultation with C&AG's office. Train-wise figures of profitability, earnings and expenditure are not separately maintained.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Projects go Off Track

6598. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "Projects go off track, Railways tops list" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated April 16, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of mega projects which are behind their schedule of completion alongwith reasons thereof, project-wise;

(c) the estimated cost of completion of these projects and what would be the total actual cost after completion, project-wise;

(d) whether the projects are monitored periodically to check cost escalation;

(e) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed for delays;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for early completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The time over run of a project can only be determined when there is assured funding. Railways have a large shelf of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources. The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

(c) The throw forward of ongoing projects under New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Metropolitan Transport and Electrification, as on 1.4.2003, is about Rs. 44,733 Cr. The actual cost of completion would be known only after the projects are completed.

(d) to (g) The progress of projects is monitored regularly. Efforts have been made to generate more funds from other than normal budgetary support to expedite completion of ongoing projects.

[Translation]

Extra Scheme

6599. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to start any scheme by the name of "Extra Scheme";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features thereof; and

(d) the time by which the above scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Allocation of Assistance to Prasar Bharati

6600. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been allocating Rs. 900 crores to Prasar Bharati Corporation as financial assistance;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any plans to stop this allocation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Details of funds released to Prasar Bharati by Government for last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Statement

The details of funds (Grants-in-aid/loan) released to Prasar Bharati by the Government for the last three years is as given below:

(Rupees in crores)

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Revenue Plan	70.94	82.91	75.96
Revenue Non-Plan	890.00	847.22	891.28
Loans	139.30	142.05	228.9970

[Translation]

Exclusion of Satnami Samaj from 14th Schedule to Another Schedule

6601. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Chattisgarh has sent a proposal to exclude 'Satnami Samaj' from 14th Schedule and include it in another Schedule;

(b) if so, the date on which this proposal has been received by the Union Government; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Government of Chhattisgarh has sent a proposal on 9.1.2002 for deletion of 'Satnami' community from existing Sl. No. 14 of the list of Scheduled Castes and to include it as independent entry at Sl. No. 14(b) in Chhattisgarh. This proposal of Government of Chhattisgarh has been sent to the Registrar General of India for their comments as per approved modalities.

Setting up of Mega Thermal Power Plants

6602. DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Mega Thermal Power Plants in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts in this direction; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The details of mega power projects identified for implementation in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are as under:

Project/State/ Capacity (MW)	Status
North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project, Jharkhand (2000 MW)	The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have identified this project for implementation for benefit in the 11th Plan. Clearances from Airport Authority of India, State Pollution Control Board and Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOE&F) are available.
Maithon, Jharkhand (1000 MW)	Proposed to be set up by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) as a Joint Venture for completion in the 10th Plan. Land acquisition is under process. Statutory and other clearances are arranged.
Auraiya expansion, Uttar Pradesh (1300 MW)	Proposed to be set up by NTPC. To be implemented in two stages—Stage II and Stage III of 650 MW each. FR for Stage-II submitted and clearances of MOE&F and CEA obtained. Proposal to be firmed up after confirmation of liquefied natural gas/natural gas availability at reasonable firm prices.
Anpara 'C', Uttar Pradesh, (1000 MW) (State Sector)	The project has been identified by Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited.

[English]

Juvenile Justice Act

6603. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Section 70 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 provides for removal of difficulties within 2 years of the commencement of the Act;

(b) if so, the nature of difficulties in the Act have since been removed;

(c) whether difficulties in regard to rights of orphan infants whose adoption under Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 conflicts with the provisions of Personal Laws, have been removed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is proposed to extent the period of removal of difficulties as specified under Section 70 of the Act; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 are to be implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations who have not reported any difficulty in giving effect to the provisions of the said Act.

(c) and (d) The prime objective behind allowing adoptions under the Juvenile Justice Act of 2000 is to ensure that the right of the child without a family, namely, an abandoned/orphan/destitute child to grow up in a congenial atmosphere, provided by a family, is not denied to him or her. These are enabling provisions and are not in conflict with the provisions of personal laws. No difficulty has so far been experienced/reported in this regard and therefore, the question of removing the difficulties does not arise.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to extend the period of two years specified under Section 70 of the Act because no need has been felt to do so.

Additional Allocation of Power to Kerala

6604. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala is facing severe power shortage due to less water in reservoirs including Idukki and damage due to Moozhiyar power station;

(b) if so, whether the Competent Authority of Kerala sought additional allocation of power from the Central pool; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During the period April-March, 2003 the energy and peak shortages in Kerala was 6.9% and 16.3% respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following assistance has been provided by the Central Government to Kerala:

(i) Allocation from 15% unallocated quota of the Central Generation Stations (CGS) in Southern Region (SR) enhanced from 4% to 25% during mid-August, 2002 resulting additional availability of about 100 MW. This was further enhanced to 35% (highest amongst the SR constituents) during mid-March, 2003 giving additional 50 MW owing to closure of Sabirigiri HEP after a fire accident.

(ii) Allocation of 73 to 100 MW from unallocated quota of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) stations in Eastern Region (ER). Present allocation to the State is 73 MW.

(iii) Entitlement of Kerala in infirm surplus power from Eastern Region increased from 200 to 300 MW during off-peak period.

(iv) One Unit (500 MW) at Talcher STPS (4x500 MW) in ER has been commissioned by NTPC in February, 2003 and 14% of generated power is being made available to Kerala.

Representation of NCC Certificate Holders in Armed Forces

6605. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of the NCC certificate holders in the armed forces was not encouraging;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to revise or improve the NCC curriculum;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the efficacy of training being imparted to the National Cadet Corps (NCC) was not upto the level of expectations;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to improve the efficacy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. NCC certificate holders have been reasonably represented in the Armed Forces.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir. The present NCC curriculum being followed meets the aims of NCC.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) No, Sir. The training imparted to the National Cadet Corps is upto the level of expectations.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g) Improvement is a continuous process. To make NCC training more effective, adventure activities like mountaineering, para-sailing, white water rafting, microlite aircraft flying and scuba diving have been extended to a large number of cadets.

Vocational Training to Persons with Disability

6606. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute of Vocational Education has prepared a comprehensive plan for imparting vocational training to persons with disability and it would be the responsibility of Rehabilitation Council of India to prepare vocational instructors for the future;

(b) if so, the details of plan prepared by Rehabilitation Council of India;

(c) the extent to which the Centre has agreed to implement this plan;

(d) whether the Government has also plan to have Rs. 100 crore-fund exclusively for extremely disabled; and

(e) if so, the criteria adopted in providing help and assistance to the disabled under this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Providing training to persons with disabilities does not come under the scope of activities of Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education, Bhopal. However, the Rehabilitation Council of India has standardized the curriculum of one-year Diploma in Vocational Training and Employment (mental Retardation) to train instructors.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, Rs. 213.95 crore has been provided for disability sector during financial year 2003-04 under different schemes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities including extremely disabled persons.

[Translation]

Setting up of FM/AIR in Uttaranchal

6607. DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have contemplated any scheme to open ten AIR Kendras in Uttaranchal in order to enhance media web and F.M. Coverage during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) if so, whether Pokhra, Eakeshwar, Binrokhal block of Pauri region as well as Lancedaun areas have been deprived from the above facility during the said period;

(c) if so, whether the Government would consider to cover these areas under the above scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) During 10th Plan, the following

schemes for setting up of FM transmitters are proposed for Uttaranchal:

1. 10 KW FM Tr. with Type II studio, Play back, Receiving facility and staff quarters at Dehradun.

2. FM Tr. with Receiving, Play back and Voice over Recording/dubbing, field production facility and staff quarters at:

   (i) Haldwani/Kaladungi-10 KW

   (ii) Bhatwari—5 KW

   (iii) Bageshwar—5 KW

3. Relay Station with 1 KW FM Tr., Receiving facility and staff quarters at

   (i) Champawat

   (ii) Garison

   (iii) Rudraprayag

   (iv) New Tehri

After implementation of the above schemes, the FM coverage in Uttaranchal will be enhanced to 60.6% from the present 30.8% by Area, and 79.1% from the present 46.43% by Population.

(b) and (c) As Pokhra and Lancedaun are covered by 10 KW FM transmitter at Mussorie, there is no scheme to set up FM Stations at these places during 10th Plan. At present, there is no scheme to set up FM Stations at Eakeshwar and Binrokhal block during 10th Plan.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Juvenile Reform Homes

6608. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Juvenile reform Homes and Mahila Niketans functioning in Orissa and other States in the country;

(b) the number of boys, girls and women who have taken shelter therein, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to make further improvement in these homes/ Mahila Niketans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from all State Governments.

NSFDC Plan for Economic Empowerment

6609. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) has prepared a strategic plan for economic empowerment of the least privileged;

(b) if so, main features of the plan; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Main features of NSFDC's Strategic Plan (2003-2012) include:

(i) Planning coverage of 1.47 lakh beneficiaries in the first 5 years and 6.25 lakhs during the next.

(ii) Planning increase in the proportion of micro-credit financing from the present level of 18% to 25% by the 5th Year and 40% by the 10th.

(iii) Planning more skill Training and Enterpreneurship Development Programmes for the target-group (i.e. @ 80 per year).

(iv) Adoption of a Mission Mode Approach towards the economic empowerment programmes for the target-group and re-orientation of lending and support policies accordingly.

(v) Project implementation through opportunity profiles.

(c) The Plan covers a period of 10 financial years.

[Translation]

Annual Grants provided to Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards

6610. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual grants are provided to the Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the grants provided during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the land of graveyards under Wakf Board property is prohibited to be leased out but despite these provisions the land of the several graveyards in the country especially in district Kullu and Kullu City of Himachal Pradesh are being leased out in connivance with Wakf Boards Chairman and their officials;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such activities and the action taken against the guilty persons of the Wakf Board; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the State Governments/UT Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Additional Amount Paid for Duplicate Rail Tickets

6611. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating not to charge additional amount being paid on getting duplicate rail tickets;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action in this direction so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) It has been decided that the charges collected for issuing duplicate tickets, before preparation of reservation chart, will be refunded at destination station on completion of the journey upto 3 days after the arrival of the train. This provision is applicable for duplicate tickets issued on and after 1.4.2003.

[English]

Level Crossings in West Bengal

6612. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of minor and major train accidents during the last three years in West Bengal due to faulty or non-existence of level crossings in the State;

(b) whether the Railways have received proposals for construction of level crossings from the Government of West Bengal during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The units of Railway operations are the Railway Zones and not the States, hence State-wise details are not maintained. However, Eastern, South Eastern and Northeast Frontier Railways operate in the State of West Bengal, and 32* level crossing accidents have occurred on these Railways during the last three years—from 2000-01 to 2002-03. No consequential train accident, due to faulty or non existence of level crossings has taken place in the said period on the three Railways.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Capacity addition during Ninth Plan

6613. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the anticipated achievement of capacity addition in Ninth Plan is expected to be far below against the target of 40,245 MW;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(*provisional figures)

(c) whether the Planning Commission recommended to set up a Task Force to analyze examine the issues related to the performance of the power sector during Ninth Plan to suggest the advance action for the Tenth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details of the progress in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) A capacity of 19015.17 MW has been added against a capacity addition target of 40245.2 MW during the 9th Plan. The main reasons that adversely affected the progress of project implementation are:

(i) Inability to achieve financial closure of private sector projects due to non-availability of escrow.

(ii) Delay in land acquisition.

(iii) Delay in investment decision.

(iv) R&R problems.

(v) Contractual problems.

(c) and (d) Mid term Appraisal of Ninth Five Year Plan in October, 2000 had recommended that a Task Force may be set up to analyze/examine issues related to the performance of the power sector during Ninth Plan and suggest advance action for the Tenth Plan.

The Working Group on Power for the 10th Plan has taken into account the factors which adversely affected the progress of project implementation during 9th Plan. Effective monitoring mechanisms have now been put in place to ensure timely completion of the targeted projects. Monthly reviews are being undertaken by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and quarterly reviews are being undertaken by Secretary (Power).

The system of having a nodal officer for each on going project has been introduced. The nodal officer is required to keep track of and facilitate resolution of problems which may delay the project by escalating the issue to appropriate levels for immediate resolutions.

For hydro power project, the three stage development system has been introduced with the objective of reducing time and cost overruns by ensuring that before main contract packages are awarded:

(a) necessary infrastructure is developed;

(b) land is acquired; and

(c) detailed Project Reports are prepared after thorough investigation.

[Translation]

Loss in HMT

6614. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) has been incurring losses;

(b) if so, the present status thereof, unit-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to make-up the losses?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) HMT and its following subsidiaries have incurred following profit/(losses):

(Rs. in Crore)

Company	2001-02	2002-03 (prov.)
HMT Holding Company	10.24	(-)47.05
HMT Machine Tools	(-)70.65	(-)92.5
HMT Watches	(-)106.29	(-)98.5
HMT Chinar Watches	(-)10.16	(-)7.32
HMT Bearing	0.86	(-)12.91
HMT International	0.50	0.43

(c) In addition to the relief provided under the turn around plan approved by the Government in 2000; further assistance has also been given to the company which inter-alia includes fresh Government guarantee for VRS Bonds amounting to Rs. 310.00 crore along with 50% interest subsidy and without guarantee fee was provided to enable the company to swap the bonds already raised with bonds at a lower interest rate thus reducing the financial burden on the company. Government also extended the time period of their guarantee for working capital bonds of Rs. 40.00 crore for Watch Business Group. Budgetary support of Rs. 172.17 crore was provided for rightsizing manpower to separate a further 2085 employees in HMT and its subsidiaries.

Rehabilitation of Orphan and Destitute Children

6615. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the children who have been rendered destitute and orphan due to earthquake and communal violence during the last three years and till date, State-wise/incident-wise;

(b) the welfare measures taken by the Union Government for the rehabilitation of such orphan and destitute children;

(c) whether the Government have received any foreign assistance in this regard during the said period, till date; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected from all State Governments.

Non-Functioning of AIR Kendras

6616. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether apart from opening Akashvani Kendras in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jammu & Kashmir States, a number of several Kendras have become fully ready in various States for the last several years;

(b) if so, whether these Kendras have not become operational in the absence of posting of staff; and

(c) if so, the names of these Kendras and the time by which the staff is likely to be posted on all these Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Financial Performance of Railways

6617. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any review of the Financial performance of the Indian Railways vis-a-vis that of other Railways in developed/developing countries;

(b) if so, the details/outcome thereof;

(c) whether the size of Railway track in India is too less as compared to other countries, in comparison to population;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Railways to connect every nook and corner of the country and to bear the cost of running these unprofitable lines; and

(e) the areas of the country not connected with rails and the time by which rails will be provided there with all infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such comparison has been made.

(d) and (e) Most parts of the country are well connected with Rail network and some more areas are in the process of getting connected with the Railway network.

Ahmedabad-Delhi Doubling Work

6618. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for doubling of Delhi-Ahmedabad rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the time by which the doubling work is likely to be started along with the estimated cost thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The survey has taken time as it involves detailed study for this over 900 km. long route. The survey is in progress and is expected to be completed during 2003-04.

[Translation]

Rural Programmes from Patna Doordarshan

6619. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the duration of rural languages programmes relayed from Patna Doordarshan Kendra, language-wise;

(b) whether there is any scheme to increase the said time limit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount made available to the Patna Doordarshan Kendra for relaying programmes under the commission category during the last financial year;

(e) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount of Commission and the number of programmes under the said category during the current year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan Kendra, Patna, telecasts programmes in local languages/dialects for rural viewers as follows:

(i) Rural programmes in dialects 90 mts. per week including Grameen Bharat.

(ii) (a) Bhojpuri and Magdhi-60 mts. per month.

(b) Sponsored programme
Bhojpuri Mahabharat-30 mts. per month.

(c) Health Magazine programme named "Kalyan" in Maithili & Magadhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Nil.

(e) Prasar Bharati has informed that there is no such proposal.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Inclusion of Gurjar Caste in Scheduled Tribes

6620. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of the Gurjar caste in Rajasthan have been agitating for the last two years with their demand for inclusion of the said caste in the list of scheduled tribes;

(b) whether the Union Government had asked the State Government to submit the report relating to inclusion of Gurjars in the Scheduled Tribe list but the same has not yet been submitted by the Rajasthan Government;

(c) whether a recent survey shows that the per cent of education among Gurjars is below 0.4;

(d) whether the Government propose to include Gurjar caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Backward Castes of Bihar in the List of Scheduled Castes

6621. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nonian, Mallah, Tatwa, Tanti and Turha castes in Bihar have been included in the list of the most Backward Caste;

(b) whether the social, economic and educational condition of these castes are in itself sufficient to make them a strong case for their inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(c) whether the organization representing these castes have been making such demand constantly;

(d) whether social study groups and State Government have also recommended to include these castes in the list of Scheduled Castes; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to include the aforesaid five castes in the list of Scheduled Caste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) As per Gazette Notification No. 186 dated 13.9.1993, the castes Nunia, Nonia (not Nonian), Mallah, Tatwa, Tanti and Turha have been included in the Central lists of Other Backward Classes for Bihar.

(b) to (e) The Government of Bihar based on the report of the Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi had sent their recommendations for the inclusion of Nunia (not Nonian) community in the list of Scheduled Castes but in the absence of requisite ethnographic details, the State Government has been requested to furnish the same for further examination of the proposal as per approved modalities. As regards, Mallah community, in connection with a Private Member Bill, the Government of Bihar has been requested to send their views for inclusion of this community in the list of Scheduled Castes and that the views of the State Government are still awaited. Regarding inclusion of Tanti, Tatwe (not Tatwa) and Turaha (not Turha) castes in the list of Scheduled Castes in Bihar, the State Government of Bihar has been requested to send their comments and necessary ethnographic details. The requisite information from the State Government of Bihar is still awaited.

[English]

Production of Crude Oil and Gas

6622. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for production of crude oil/gas during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the extent to which these targets have been achieved;

(c) the success achieved in exploring new oil/gas wells in North-Eastern region during the same period;

(d) the contribution of Private Sector in North-Eastern Region; and

(e) the details of programme undertaken to accelerate indigenous production of crude oil/gas in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The targets fixed for the production of crude oil and natural gas and the actual production thereof during the IX Five Year Plan period by the national oil companies (NOCs), namely, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) are given below:

NOC	Oil Million Metric Tonne (MMT)		Gas Billion Cubic Metre (BCM)	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
ONGC	144.894	129.050	119.042	117.203
OIL	16.47	16.096	12.86	8.59
Total	161.364	145.146	131.902	125.793

As regards Private/Joint Venture (Pvt./JV) companies, no targets were fixed for the production of crude oil and natural gas during the IX Plan period. However, the production of oil and gas during the above period by Pvt./JV companies was 17.8 MMT and 15.7 BCM, respectively.

(c) During the IX Plan period ONGC has drilled 110 exploratory wells in the North-Eastern Region, out of which 51 are hydrocarbon bearing. Out of the 55 exploratory wells drilled by OIL in the Region during the same period, 20 wells are producing hydrocarbon.

No exploratory wells were drilled or hydrocarbon discoveries made by Pvt./JV companies in the North Eastern Region during the above period.

(d) One medium size discovered oil field and four exploration blocks, namely, AAP-ON-94/1, CR-ON-90/1, AA-ON-7 and AS-ONN-2000/1 have been awarded to private companies. The oil production from Kharsang field is about 135 tonnes per day as against the production of

nearly 30 tonnes per day at the time of handing over the field.

(e) Several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production, which include the following:

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the three rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 70 blocks.

(iii) to explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iv) to develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes for Employment to Handicapped Persons

6623. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the welfare schemes being implemented by his Ministry under the "Employment to the handicapped Persons";

(b) the norms adopted by the Government to provide loans, grants and other financial assistance under these schemes; and

(c) the share of the State Governments under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely the Scheme of upgradation/establishment of Special Employment Exchanges for the physically Handicapped, is being implemented by the Ministry. Under this scheme, 100 per cent Central assistance is provided for Special Cells in regular Employment Exchanges and 80% expenditure in respect of Special Employment Exchanges is reimbursed by the Central Government. Besides, the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation extends soft loans to disabled persons through the State Channelising Agencies nominated by the respective State Governments/Union Territories for self-employment ventures.

Rural Electrification

6624. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tribal dominated villages under the Godhara Parliamentary Constituency in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide solar power to the Adivasis of such villages;

(c) if so, the time by which these villages are provided by the solar power; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) According to Gujarat Electricity Board, there are 196 tribal villages (as per 1991 census) falling under Godhara Parliamentary Constituency. All these tribal villages are electrified through conventional method.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, question do not arise.

Schools Allotted to Non-Governmental Organisations

6625. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of residential primary and secondary schools allotted to the Non-governmental Organisations in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the number of primary and secondary schools likely to be allotted this year, State-wise; and

(c) if so, the details of the budget provision made for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) During last two years, 21 primary and secondary residential schools have been allotted to different Non-Governmental organizations. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Under the scheme no target is fixed and there is no separate budgetary provision for this purpose.

Statement

State-wise details of Voluntary Organisation sanctioned Residential Schools under the Scheme of Grant in aid to Voluntary Organisations working for Scheduled Castes during 2001-2002 (New Cases)

Sl.No.	State	Name of Organisation	Address of organisation	Name of project
1.	Karnataka	Sree Ramakrishna Education Society	Vedavathinagara, K.H.B. Colony, Hiriyur-572144, Distt. Chitradurga, Karnataka	Residential Secondary School
2.	Karnataka	Sree Ramakrishna Education Society	Vedavathinagara, K.H.B. Colony, Hiriyur-572144, Distt. Chitradurga, Karnataka	Residential Primary School
3.	Maharashtra	Shri Sant Shiromani Manmath Swami Shikshan Prasarak Mandal	Shewadi (B), Tal. Loha, Distt. Nanded, Maharashtra	Residential Primary School
4.	Orissa	Ambedkar Kalyan Samiti	AT/PO: Baliapal, Distt. Balasore, Orissa	Residential Secondary School
5.	Orissa	Dr. Ambedkar Harijan Yuva Parishad	At-Naikulpatna, P.O. Gadisagoda Via-Kanas, Distt. Puri-752017, Orissa	Residential Secondary School
6.	Rajasthan	4 L.L. Public School Samiti	Chandni Chowk, Purani Abadi, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Residential Primary School
7.	Rajasthan	Adarsh Shikshan Samiti	117-H-Block, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Residential Primary School
8.	Rajasthan	Jack & Jill Prabandh Samiti	7E, Chhoti, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Residential Primary School
9.	Rajasthan	Jan Kalyan Shikshan Samiti	52, Main Road, Agarsain Nagar, Distt. Sri Ganganagar-335001, Rajasthan	Residential Primary School
10.	Rajasthan	Public Seva Society	1-A, Chhoti Balwant Singh Ki Dhani, Sriganganagar Rajasthan	Residential Primary School
11.	Rajasthan	S.K. Public School Samiti	Chandni Chowk Purani Awadi, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Residential Primary School
12.	Rajasthan	Summit Bal Vidhyalaya Shiksha Vikas Samiti	11/B/3, Mahavir Nagar-III, Kota, Rajasthan	Residential Primary School

State-wise details of voluntary organisation sanctioned Residential Schools under the Scheme of grant in aid to voluntary organisation working for SCs during the year 2002-2003 (New Cases)

Sl.No.	State	Name of Organisation	Address of Organisation	Name of Project
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Mothers Educational Society for Rural and Orphan	11-62-5, Bahadurpet, Srikalahasti, Chittoor Distt., Andhra Pradesh	Residential Primary School
2.	Karnataka	Jnanesh Education Society	Malavally, Distt. Mandya, Karnataka	Residential Primary School
3.	Maharashtra	Mahila Utkarsh Pratishthan	Civil Line Risod, Distt. Washim, Maharashtra	Residential Secondary School
4.	Maharashtra	Dnyanopasak Shikshan Mandali	Dondaicha, Tal. Shindkheda, Distt. Dhule-425408, Maharashtra	Residential Primary School
5.	Maharashtra	Priyadarshini Mahila Mandal	Subhas Nagar, Koregaon, Distt. Satara, Maharashtra	Residential Secondary School
6.	Maharashtra	Matoshri Bahuuddeshiya Vikas Shikshan Sanstha	Nagpur, Main Road, Narkhed, Distt. Nagur, Maharashtra	Residential Secondary School
7.	Maharashtra	Bhagyodaya Bahuuddesiya Shikshan Sanstha	Chitrakutty 1-6-7-22, Shri Nagar, Distt. Nanded, Maharashtra	Residential Secondary School
8.	Maharashtra	Adarsh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal	74, Adarsh Colony, Deopur, Dhule, Maharashtra	Residential Secondary School
9.	Maharashtra	Adarsh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal	74, Adarsh Colony, Deopur, Dhule, Maharashtra	Residential Primary School

[English]

Exploration of Oil and Gas in North Eastern region

6626. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exploration of oil and natural gas in the North-Eastern Region has recently received a set-back;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the hurdles in the way of fast exploration of oil in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) There has been no recent set-back in the exploration of hydrocarbons in North-Eastern Region. Appropriate measures as warranted by the prevalent situation in the region have been taken.

[Translation]

Funds Allocated to Various Welfare Schemes

6627. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated by the Union Government to the State under various welfare schemes during the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the share of a backward State such as Bihar for several welfare schemes has been comparatively less as compared to other States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to directly accord approval to these proposals in case the recommendations of various State Governments for the schemes of their respective States are not received; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No State wise allocation is made.

(b) and (c) Funds are released to State Governments in accordance with the norms of the scheme and on the basis of complete proposals received from them.

(d) and (e) State Governments are released Central assistance only after receiving complete proposals from them. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are also given assistance under welfare schemes on the basis of recommendations of State Governments. In case, State Government's recommendations are not received before release of II instalment, then the Ministry can on its own or through designated agencies get inspections done and release the funds to NGOs if performance is found to be satisfactory.

[English]

Troops killed in De-Mining Operation

6628. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the army troops engaged in de-mining operations on the Indo-Pak border and LoC recently were killed as they were not provided with the safety equipment;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking up the de-mining operations without providing them safety equipment; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir, Adequate protective gear and demining equipment are available with the Army, who are engaged in demining operations in the forward areas, where land mines were laid during OPERATION PARAKRAM.

To ensure safety in demining operation, which is hazardous in nature, only trained army personnel who laid the lines and were familiar with the terrain, have been employed in recovery of the mines. Nevertheless, casualties do occur due to some mines becoming over sensitive, or sinking, or drifting from their original locations, because of the nature of the ground and terrain/ environmental conditions.

(c) The Government has taken necessary steps to augment the existing resources with highly advanced equipment available internationally, so as to facilitate safe and expeditious completion of the on-going demining process.

Special Projects to Provide Education to Physically Handicapped

6629. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of agencies running institutions for deaf, dumb and blinds in various States; and

(b) the details of projects to be set up by NGOs for welfare of deaf, dumb and blind in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Two apex level National Institutes, namely, Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai and National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun are providing services in the area of education, training, rehabilitation and research for hearing impaired and visually impaired persons respectively. Besides voluntary organizations, are also assisted for providing services to the deaf, dumb and blind under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities. A statement indicating the number of such organizations assisted in various States during the year 2002-03 under the Scheme is annexed. Details of non governmental organizations funded for running such programme are on the website (www.socialjustice.nic.in) of the Ministry.

(b) This information is not maintained by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Statement

Name of the State	Number of voluntary organizations assisted during 2002-03
Andhra Pradesh	34
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Bihar	7
Chandigarh	1
Chhattisgarh	1
Delhi	12
Goa	1
Gujarat	6
Haryana	10
Himachal Pradesh	1
Karnataka	32
Kerala	6
Madhya Pradesh	5
Maharashtra	9
Manipur	1
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	2
Orissa	7
Pondicherry	1
Punjab	8
Rajasthan	5
Sikkim	1
Tamil Nadu	20
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	21
Uttaranchal	3
West Bengal	17

Supply of Defective Defence Equipments

6630. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has supplied some old, defective and unserviceable items of defence equipments in violation of contract;

(b) whether Comptroller and Auditor General has also pointed out it in its report;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The matter was taken up with Russians and they have agreed to replace the defective items and supply items found missing.

Rail Path Pariwahan

6631. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the Rail Path Pariwahan Yojna in order to timely detect any tampering in the rail tracks leading to rail accidents;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals;

(c) the expenditure estimated to be incurred on the above scheme; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such Rail Path Pariwahan Yojna. However, provision of Satat Rail Path Paripathan (Continuous Track Circuiting) is being planned with a view to detect discontinuity in track due to rail/weld fracture or any other reasons.

(b) and (c) Provision of Satat Rail Path Paripathan (Continuous Track Circuiting) has been sanctioned on about 2000 route kms. section on Indian Railways at a cost of about Rs. 425 crore.

(d) The work is likely to be completed in next 4-5 years.

Funds for Existing Development Projects

6632. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated more funds for the development of various existing development projects of NCES executed by his Ministry in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various Centrally assisted schemes in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(c) whether the money allocated are not utilized fully; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has provided financial support of Rs. 3.68 crores for the development of various non-conventional energy projects/programmes to Tamilnadu during 2002-03 as compared to Rs. 205.00 crores for the rest of the country.

(b) A total financial assistance of Rs. 12.84 crores has been provided under various non-conventional energy schemes to Tamilnadu during the last three years, i.e., 2000-01 to 2002-03 as compared to Rs. 617.88 crores for the rest of the country.

(c) and (d) The funds are released as per the provisions contained in the guidelines of the programmes/ schemes. No unutilized amount has been reported from Tamilnadu. The Ministry is also conducting periodic reviews of the programmes/schemes implemented through State Nodal Agencies and other organizations to ensure proper utilization of funds.

Marshalling Yards

6633. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken long time back not to close down marshalling yards but to keep them operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether no capital investment has been made in the yards except for routine maintenance during the last fifteen years;

(d) whether there are any steps on the anvil to modernize them;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the total number of big, medium and small marshalling yards in the country and the number out of them are working at present and how many have been closed down, giving the reasons therefor;

(g) whether C&AG in its Report No. 9 of 2001 (Railways) carried a chapter on the working of modernization of yards; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Marshalling yard is a yard where goods trains originating from adjoining sections are received, marshalled/sorted out and new trains are formed and despatched for various onward destinations. A marshalling yard, thus facilitates co-ordination of reception and despatch of freight traffic formation/reformation of loads over the Railway network. With the policy decisively shifting away from piecemeal traffic to block rake concept, the role of marshalling yards declined and modernization of marshalling yards was no longer a priority area. The focus has now shifted to streamlining marshalling yards on the basis of block rake concept and simultaneous closing down of activities in marshalling yards which are surplus to the requirement.

(f) As of September 2002, there are 43 marshalling yards over Indian Railways.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Re-appointment of Officers

6634. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any officer of the NTPC, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., NHPC and Power Finance Corporation has ever contested the elections for Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assemblies;

(b) if so, the names of those officers along with the constituencies from which they contested;

(c) whether there are instances of any officer resigning from his post to contest elections and returning to his job in the event of losing the contest;

(d) if so, whether it is permissible under the law; and

(e) if not, the law under which the officers who resigned to contest elections were reinstated in their posts on losing the elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Oil Exploration Contracts to Foreign Firms

6635. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "4 nations may be barred from Andaman Oil" appeared in "Times of India" April 21, 2003;

(b) if so, the norms laid down for awarding contracts for oil explorations especially to foreign firms;

(c) the countries which have offered to compete for the contracts; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the national safety is not compromised while awarding the contracts to foreign firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), which aims at attracting larger private investment including investment from foreign companies, offers a level playing field, where both private and public sector companies are free to compete for the award of exploration acreages.

(c) Participation of the foreign countries in the fourth round of NELP depends on their response to the Notice Inviting Offer (NIO).

(d) The exploration blocks put on offer for international competitive bidding under NELP-IV are included only after obtaining requisite clearances.

Expansion of Thermal Power Plant at Raichur in Karnataka

6636. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of the Thermal Power Plant at Raichur in Karnataka during Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the expansion plan drawn up;

(c) the amount proposed to be spent on the expansion of above plant; and

(d) the additional power to be generated after expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Expansion Unit-8 at Raichur Thermal Power Plant has been planned to be implemented in 10th Plan period. The cost of the expansion of Unit-8 is estimated at Rs. 664.66 crores including interest during construction. 210 MW of additional installed capacity with an annual energy of 1416 million units are proposed to be generated from the expansion Unit.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts in Kota Division

6637. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news-item regarding '623 vacant Posts in Kota Division' published in 'Dainik Bhaskar' Kota edition dated March 1, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to fill up the vacant posts in Kota Division or whether these posts be considered lapsed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these posts are causing adverse impact on the safety and functioning of the Railways; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (e) Out of 623 vacant posts in different category, 252 posts of Gangmen could not be filled up in view of the proposed introduction of Mobile Maintenance Unit (MMU) concept for faster and speedy track maintenance. Further, action for filling up to 371 balance posts has already been initiated by redeployment of surplus/decategorised staff as well as fresh recruitment through Railway Recruitment Board.

(d) No, Sir. Proper maintenance of infrastructure and satisfactory level of services have been ensured despite the vacancies by keeping absenteeism under control and proper utilisation of surplus staff in the areas where vacancies exist and by introducing Rail-cum-Road Vehicles (RRVs) for track maintenance work.

[English]

Agreements in Auto Industry

6638. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Giants like truck maker AB Volvo, RD Motor Company, Daimler Chrysler AV and Diesel Engine Maker Cummins Inc. have headed for India as the nearly trillion-dollar industry seeks to defeat a demand slump that has forced them to slash prices;

(b) if so, the names of the countries are looking for auto-parts and agreements have been made in this regard to buy Indian auto parts;

(c) the names of the local (Indian) engineering companies (local software industries) that can develop and design electronic parts; and

(d) the details regarding the incentives are being given by our Government in favour of these companies?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) In the post liberalized economy a number of global auto manufacturers including Volvo, Daimler Chrysler and Cummins Inc. have set up manufacturing facilities in India in order to avail of the substantial market that the country offers. India is exporting auto components to a large number of countries and the average growth of export of components during the last 3 years has been around 25%. India has significant Information Technology (IT) related capabilities which can be gainfully utilized for benefit of Automotive Industry. Other than the normal incentives available to industry under the EXIM Policy, there are no special incentives available to the companies developing and designing automotive electronic parts.

Removal of Luggage Racks in Sub-Urban Trains

6639. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways is considering to remove luggage racks in sub-urban Railways in Mumbai;

(b) whether the Government are aware that if such racks are removed in sub-urban Railways the same rule will be applicable to all trains throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. The Railways are not considering to remove luggage racks in sub-urban trains in Mumbai.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Production of Heavy and Light Vehicles

6640. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been significant increase in the production of heavy and light vehicles during the last two years;

(b) if so, the number of heavy and light vehicles produced in the country during the last two years, year-wise and vehicle-wise;

(c) the number of vehicles exported during the last two years, alongwith the foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) While the commercial vehicle sector had recorded a negative growth rate of 6.70% in the year 2001-2002, the sector recorded a positive growth rate of 25% during the last year i.e. 2002-2003.

(b) As per information received from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the production of light and heavy commercial vehicles during the last two years is as under:

(In numbers)

Category	2001-02	2002-03
Medium & Heavy Commercial Vehicles	96752	120081
Light Commercial Vehicles	66756	82865

(c) The commercial vehicles are exported to a number of countries. As per information received from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the number of commercial vehicles exported during the last two years is as under:

(In numbers)

Category	2001-02	2002-03
Medium & Heavy Commercial Vehicles	4824	4804
Light Commercial Vehicles	7046	5900

As per information received from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, the total value of export of commercial vehicles during 2001-02 was Rs. 240.80 crore and the same during 2002-03 (up to December, 2002) was Rs. 85.27 crore.

(d) Major upgradation of automotive testing infrastructure, phased implementation of Auto Policy, which aims at making India a global automotive hub and encouragement to industry for participating in international auto fairs etc. are some of the initiatives aimed at helping the growth of export of commercial vehicles.

Funds for People with Disabilities

6641. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has been providing fund for people with disabilities every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the funds allocated to State of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat has been utilized fully during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total fund allocated to Andhra Pradesh under Viklang Bandhu Scheme and for providing aids to visually disabled persons;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that allocated amount is utilized fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, funds are allocated scheme-wise and not State-wise.

(c) and (d) Central assistance under the scheme of Upgradation/Establishment of Special Employment Exchanges for the Physically Handicapped is in the nature of reimbursement of expenditure. Under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids/Appliances, grants are released to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) after receipt of utilization certificates in respect of previous grants.

(e) to (g) An amount of Rs. 19,83,300 has been released to 10 NGOs under Viklang Bandhu Scheme during the last two years.

[Translation]

Upliftment of Handicapped in Rajasthan

6642. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of centres working for the upliftment of handicapped in Rajasthan;

(b) the centre-wise and year-wise details of the grants provided in this regard by the Government during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for non-utilization of grants in full by the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) A statement containing details of assistance given to 28 centres in Rajasthan, year-wise during the period 2000-01 to 2002-03 under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances and District Rehabilitation Centre Scheme, is annexed.

(c) No grants are sanctioned to State Governments under the above schemes.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name and Address of the Centres	Name of the Project	Amount (Rs. in lakh)		
			2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Badhit Bal Vikas Samiti Vaishali Nagar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan	Purchase of Vehicle	0.00	4.49	0.00
2.	Navdeep Vikas Samiti C-6, Hasankhan Mewati Nagar, Alwar, Rajasthan	Special School for MR	0.00	2.00	5.42
3.	Navdisha Vikas Samiti C-6, Hasan Khan, Mewati Nagar, Alwar, Rajasthan	Construction of Building	5.00	8.50	0.00
		School cum VTC	8.60	10.08	10.65
4.	Jeevan Nirman Sansthan 1, Gol Bagh Road, Bharatpur-321001, Rajasthan	Special School for Deaf & Dumb	1.11	2.10	2.32
5.	Mahila Bal Vikas Gramodhyog Shiksha Samiti 470, Rajendra Nagar, Bharatpur, Rajasthan	School cum VTC for MR	0.00	1.89	0.00
6.	Badhir Bal Kalyan Vikas Samiti's Chatur Clinic, M.G. Hospital Road, Bhilwara-311001, Rajasthan	Residential School for Deaf	13.38	17.02	14.41
		Special School for Blind	3.70	2.11	1.09
		Distribution of Aids and Appliances	—	2.00	2.00
7.	Sona Viklang Punarwas Avam Shodh Sansthan, Ashok Nagar, Bhilwara-311001, Rajasthan	Special School for MR	4.12	5.29	6.28
8.	Saur Chetna Evam Urja Vigyan Shodh Sansthan Sewa Viklang, Sector 6, Hanumangarh Jn-335512, Rajasthan	Special School for MR	0.00	2.12	5.30
9.	Chetna Samvardhan Samiti, Surya Marg, Tilak Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Education and VTC for MR Children	6.16	11.79	13.38
10.	Disha-Centre for Special Education F-139, Shyam Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Special School for MR	0.00	8.79	9.52

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Indian Council of Social Welfare, Sector No. 6, Heera Path, Mansarovar, Jaipur-302020, Rajasthan	VTC for Adult	8.75	8.01	8.60
12.	Jaimini Shikshan Evam Gramin Vikas Sansthan, C-234, Dayanand Marg, Tilak Nagar, Jaipur	VTC for Disabled	0.00	0.00	1.58
13.	Prayas, Centre for Special Education & Vocational Training, 343, Lane No. 2, Raja Park, Jaipur-302004, Rajasthan	Special Education & Vocational Training Centre	0.00	0.00	1.07
14.	Rajasthan Netraheen Kalyan Sangh, 3780, Langer Ke Balaji Ka Rasta, Gangauri Bazaar, Jaipur-302001, Rajasthan	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind	0.00	0.99	4.20
15.	Society for Welfare of Mentally Handicapped, 36-A, Suraj Nagar (East), Civil Lines, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Nirmal Vivek School and Hostel	5.13	5.15	5.19
16.	Jodhpur Badhir Kalyan Samiti Basni Tambolia, Magra Pungla, Jodhpur-342303, Rajasthan	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Deaf & Dumb	0.00	0.48	0.00
17.	Sucheta Kriplani Shiksha Niketan, PO Manaklao-342305, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	Education cum VTC for OH	0.00	0.00	3.76
18.	Badhit Bal Vikas Kendra, 132, Station Road, Kota-324002, Rajasthan	Hostel and VTC for Deaf	0.00	2.90	2.73
19.	Shardhalaya Ashram Samiti In front of Jhala House, Surajpole, Kota, Rajasthan	CBR Programme	0.00	1.84	6.88
		Education cum VTC for Handicapped	1.09	6.25	3.13
20.	Tagore Gramin Utthan Samiti, 1-D-4, Vigyan Nagar, Kota, Rajasthan	VTC for Disabled (Chittorgarh)	0.00	1.98	0.00
21.	Nab Pheroze & Noshir Merwanji Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind "East View', Mount Abu-307501, Rajasthan	Maintenance of Hostel for Blind	0.00	0.57	0.00
22.	LKC Sri Jagdamba Andh Vidyalaya Samiti, Hanumangarh Road, Sriganganagar-335001, Rajasthan	Construction of School/Hostel Building	2.00	1.00	0.00
		School cum Hostel for Blind and Deaf	34.16	34.09	21.94
23.	Manohar Bal Mandir Samiti, 5 D Block, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Community Based rehabilitation Programme	0.00	0.00	3.33
24.	Tapovan Manovikas Vidyalaya 4, M.L. Limbawali, National Highway, Suratgarh Road, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan	Construction of Hostel	0.00	2.50	2.50
		Maintenance of Hostel for MR Children	0.29	3.78	4.00
25.	Narayan Sewa Sansthan, 483, Hiran Magri, Sector-4, Udaipur, Rajasthan	CBR Programme	0.49	3.75	2.20
		Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled	0.00	3.05	0.00
		Distribution of Aids and Appliances	60.00	80.00	100.00
26.	Prayas-Prachya Shodh Peet Samiti, 30-A, C-1, Bhuepalpura, Udaipur-313001, Rajasthan	Special School for MR	0.00	3.15	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Bhagwan Mahaveer Vikalang Sahayata Samity, SMS Hospital, Jaipur	Distribution of Aids and Appliances	300.00	300.00	371.00
28.	District Rehabilitation Centre, Social Welfare Deptt. MBS Hospital Campus, Kota-32400, Rajasthan	Distribution of Aids and Appliances/ DRC scheme	16.00	17.92	28.2

[English]

Juvenile Justice for Maintaining Mandatory Homes

6643. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance given to State Governments under "Programme of Juvenile Justice" for maintaining mandatory homes for Juvenile Delinquents;

(b) the number of mandatory homes set-up, State-wise and number of Juvenile inmates assisted under the scheme;

(c) whether there is any proposal to enhance central assistance to these mandatory homes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) An amount of Rs. 1271.99 lakh was provided to State Governments/UT Administrations for maintaining Observation Homes/Juvenile Homes/Special Homes during 2002-03.

(b) A statement showing the State-wise number of institutions for neglected and delinquent children under the scheme, named, A Programme for Juvenile Justice is enclosed. During the year 2002-03, a total number of 38821 inmates were assisted under the scheme.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to enhance the maintenance grant for the inmates of Juvenile and Observation Homes.

Statement

State-wise institutions for neglected and delinquent children under the scheme, named, A Programme for Juvenile Justice

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	Observation Homes	Juvenile Homes	Special Homes	After Care Centres	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	5	2	1	17
2.	Assam	7	25	1	1	34
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	–	2
4.	Bihar	10	8	5	2	25
5.	Gujarat	22	6	2	14	44
6.	Goa	2	2	2	—	6
7.	Haryana	2	2	1	1	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1	1	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
10.	Karnataka	22	19	—	11	52
11.	Kerala	12	5	2	—	19
12.	Maharashtra	53	127	3	2	185
13.	Madhya Pradesh	23	4	3	2	32
14.	Manipur	1	2	1	—	4
15.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	1
16.	Mizoram	3	3	—	—	6
17.	Nagaland	—	1	1	—	2
18.	Orissa	12	2	—	—	14
19.	Punjab	7	2	1	2	12
20.	Rajasthan	11	4	1	—	16
21.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	14	17	3	3	37
23.	Tripura	1	1	—	—	2
24.	Uttar Pradesh	59	10	1	—	70
25.	West Bengal	10	31	3	10	54
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	1	—	—	1
27.	Chandigarh	1	1	1	—	3
28.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	2	9	—	—	11
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	1	1	1	1	4
	Total	287	290	35	50	662

Modern Methods of Communications Adopted by ONGC

6644. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is adopting modern methods of communication and video conferencing to increase the efficiency;

(b) if so, whether adoption of modern update telecommunication video conferencing technology is an important factor in oil and offshore business;

(c) if so, the manner in which video conferencing system be used at ONGC and by its competitors;

(d) the latest technology available; and

(e) the action plan to ONGC to update its communication, video conferencing system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Video Conferencing system was installed in March' 1997 between ONGC's office at Vasundhara Bhavan, Mumbai and offshore platforms located in Mumbai High North field, Basin field and Heera field for efficient and effective functioning of the operations.

(d) Several technologies are available for improved and effective communication links including Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA), Optical Fiber Connectivity (OFC), Very Small Aperture Terminal (V-SAT), Ku-Band etc.

(e) The process of technical and technological upgradation in communication network, to facilitate exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas, is a continuous one. ONGC upgrades the system to bridge critical gaps as and when these are noticed.

Construction of ROBs at Ontham and Meloot

6645. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Ontham and Meloot Tellicherry over bridge projects;

(b) whether these projects are running behind schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Road over bridge, near Ontham Road at Km. 711/9-10 was sanctioned on deposit basis in year 1997-98. Railway is constructing bridge proper (over the track) having present progress up to 69% and approach work is executed by State Govt. of Kerala. Whereas for the work of Road over bridge at Tellicherry in lieu of LC No. 228 at Km. 731/14-15 (Jagannath Temple) sanctioned in 2003-04 on cost sharing basis, General Arrangement Drawing has been finalised and Estimate is being prepared.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Railways undertake work of bridge proper whereas approaches are to be done by State Govt. Work on Railway portion will be completed before or simultaneously with the work of approaches.

Reservation of Jobs for Physically Challenged Persons

6646. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reservation for physically challenged persons also exists in educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the educational institutions which have been kept out of the ambit of this reservation;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Central Government have received complaints against some institutions not following this policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) Section 39 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 requires that all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government, shall reserve not less than three percent seats for persons with disabilities. This provision is not applicable to privately managed educational institutions.

(e) and (f) Two representations were received regarding non implementation of Section 39 by some educational institutions in MBBS course. Both representations have been forwarded to O/o Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and these are also subjudice.

Merging the National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped

6647. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped and the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped;

(b) whether such a merger would reduce expenses on overheads;

(c) whether any study has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the study done on this possible merger; and

(e) the date by which such a merger will take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

District Rehabilitation Centres all over the Country

6648. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up District Rehabilitation Centres all over the country;

(b) the number of districts have been covered so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(d) the funds allotted, district-wise during 2002-2003;

(e) whether any cost/benefit study has been done of such DRCs;

(f) if so, the findings thereof;

(g) whether there is a proposal to review the utility of such centres; and

(h) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) 11 District Rehabilitation Centres have been set up in 10 States in the districts of Bhiwani (Haryana), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), Chengalpattu (Tamil Nadu), Kota (Rajasthan), Jagdishpur (Uttar Pradesh), Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh), Virar (Thane District-Maharashtra), Midnapore (West Bengal), Mysore (Karnataka) and Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh).

(d) Grants-in-aid released to the 11 DRCs during 2002-2003 is given as under:

		Rs. in lakhs
1.	DRC, Bhiwani	Rs. 26.90
2.	DRC, Bilaspur	Rs. 19.90
3.	DRC, Bhubaneswar	Rs. 29.90
4.	DRC, Chengalpattu	Rs. 15.95
5.	DRC, Kota	Rs. 19.28
6.	DRC, Jagdishpur	Rs. 11.90
7.	DRC, Midnapore	Rs. 36.90
8.	DRC, Sitapur	Rs. 45.90
9.	DRC, Mysore	Rs. 34.90
10.	DRC, Virar	Rs. 33.90
11.	DRC, Vijayawada	Rs. 35.90
	Total	Rs. 311.33

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) Periodic reports about the performance/ activities of the DRCS indicate that these are working satisfactorily.

Maintenance of NH-52

6649. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken for repairs, maintenance and augmentation of NH-52 for the use of defence transport besides civilian traffic; and

(b) the progress since made for construction of bridge over the river Jiabharali at Chowkighat including realignment of NH-52 from NH-37A to Jamuguri via Chowkighat?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The portion of NH-52 falling in Assam State was in a deplorable state of maintenance when it was taken over by the Border Roads Organisation from the State Government in May, 2002. Immediate rehabilitation efforts relating to repair of pot holes, protection of formation, repair of hume pipe minor bridges, repair of timber bridges and repair of approaches to Permanent Bridges have since been carried out. The Border Road Organisation is also undertaking upgradation of this NH to the double lane specification alongwith other rehabilitation measures from 2003-2004 in a phased manner. The portion of NH-52 falling in Arunachal Pradesh is being developed to NH (Single lane) specification.

(b) The proposed work has so far not been entrusted by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to the Border Road Organisation.

Survey of New Broad Gauge Line between Jeypore-Nowarangpur

6650. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of new Broad Gauge Rail Line from Jeypore to Nowarangpur in Orissa has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project;

(d) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be started and completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay alongwith the revised target for completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. However, fieldwork of survey has been completed.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) A large number of surveys are in progress on the zonal Railway. These have been programmed to be completed in a phased manner. The survey report is expected during 2003-04.

Amendment in Cantonment Board Act

6651. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend Cantonment Board Act, 1924;

(b) if so, whether there is any hurdle in making amendment in the said Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken to remove these hurdles;

(d) whether the Government have decided to disband all Cantonment Boards;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and alternative arrangements made by the Government to provide proper civil amenities in Cantonment Areas;

(f) whether most of the Cantonment Boards are working without Civil Member;

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to elect the Civilian Members in each Cantonment Board; and

(h) the time by which the election of Cantonment Boards is likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A comprehensive exercise has been undertaken for bringing up a New Cantonment Act for which Ministry of Law and Justice have been requested to expedite its formulation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) to (h) On nomination of civil members suitable action has already been initiated as per provisions of Cantonment Act, 1924. In view of exercise undertaken to formulate New Cantonment Act it has been decided to hold elections to the Cantonment Boards under the provisions of the New Act. No time frame has been fixed for this purpose.

Losses to State Electricity Boards

6652. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of losses sustained by SEBs during the last year as on the date throughout the country, State-wise;

(b) the major factor responsible for such losses;

(c) the factors of subsidy and cross subsidization to agriculture sector; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The cumulative commercial losses of State Electricity Boards

(SEBs) upto March, 2002 without subsidy were estimated at Rs. 33,177 crores. State-wise details of commercial losses without subsidy are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The major factors responsible for such losses inter-alia include theft of power, high technical losses, overstaffing in the utilities, poor metering, billing and collection, irrational tariff and non-payment of subsidies by the State Governments.

(c) As against the overall average tariff of 239.92 paise per unit during the year 2001-2002 the estimated domestic and agriculture tariff were 195.62 and 41.56 paise per unit respectively.

(d) The Ministry of Power has signed State-specific Memorandum of Understanding/Memorandum of Agreement on power sector reforms with 27 States. Under the new Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) the Central Government is providing financial assistance for specific projects in identified distribution circles aimed at bringing about a turn around. This has been combined with the provision of a grant to the States linked to the actual reduction in losses. Substantial relief has also been given to the State Utilities through the securitization of past dues to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) under the Tripartite Agreement.

Statement

Commercial Profit/Loss of SEBs

2001-2002 (Annual Plan)

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	SEBs	Without subsidy
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh (APSEB/APTRANSCO)	-2820
2.	Assam	-370
3.	Bihar	-753
4.	Delhi (DVB)	-1092
5.	Gujarat	-3491
6.	Haryana	-1949
7.	Himachal Pradesh	-48
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	-1141
9.	Karnataka	-2340
10.	Kerala	-1354
11.	Madhya Pradesh	-3682
12.	Maharashtra	-3527
13.	Meghalaya	-49
14.	Orissa (OSEB/GRIDCO)	-230
15.	Punjab	-1633
16.	Rajasthan (Transco)	-2412
17.	Tamil Nadu	-2510
18.	Uttar Pradesh (Power Corp.)	-2687
19.	West Bengal	-1086
	Total	-33177

Source: Planning Commission document.

Data in respect of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh represent the figures of undivided States.

DD Programmes to Defaulters of DD Kolkata

6653. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether ten top defaulters at Doordarshan Kendra Kolkata are getting additional approvals inspite of their dues to National Exchequer about rupees ten crores and a number of cases pending against them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for according permission for shows without tender;

(d) the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether 'Antarale' though their ratings were high and there were no dues, are not allowed to telecast their serials;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to continue the serials/programmes whose ratings are high and there is no dues against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Conditions of Mentally Impaired Persons

6654. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the fact that the Disabilities Act has been in force for over 7 years, little has happened on the ground to better the conditions of the millions of the disabled, especially the mentally impaired persons to enable them to lead a life with dignity;

(b) the percentage of the population accounts for those afflicted with physically disability and mental impairment; and

(c) the specific schemes have been worked out for (i) the physically disabled and (ii) mentally and psychologically impaired and the expenditure incurred on each type of schemes by the Central Government during 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and the allocations made therefor for the year 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) through a survey in 1991 estimated that 1.9% of the population are affected by some kind of physical or sensory disability. In a separate survey of children (age 0-14 years) it was estimated that around 3% suffered from delayed mental development.

(c) (i) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is supporting six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions set up in each major area of disability which work, inter-alia towards, manpower development through long term and short term training programmes, provide rehabilitation services, undertake functional research etc. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a public sector undertaking under the aegis of this Ministry manufacturers and promotes availability, supply and distribution of quality aids and appliances for persons with disabilities. The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC), set up in 1997, provides financial assistance to person with disabilities on soft terms for self-employment and income generating activities.

(ii) Schemes are also under implementation for providing support to non-government organizations providing for rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities set up in the year 2000 extends support to registered organisations to provide need based services during periods of crisis in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians. For educational and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities, the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides for 3% reservation in seats for persons with disabilities in all Government and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government. 3% reservation is provided against identified posts in Government establishments and Public Sector Undertakings.

(iii) Information regarding expenditure incurred on Plan and non-Plan schemes for the year 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and outlay for the year 2003-04 is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Scheme	Plan Expenditure				Non-Plan Expenditure			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Allocation for 2003-04	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Allocation for 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata	1.12	1.55	1.80	3.00	2.20	2.42	2.66	2.66
2.	National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun	2.60	2.76	4.00	6.50	3.30	3.63	3.99	3.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai	2.63	2.61	5.80	7.50	3.52	3.94	4.25	4.25
4.	National Institute for Rehabilitation Training & Training, Cuttack	3.60	3.60	6.00	7.00	3.08	3.30	2.26	3.57
5.	Institute for the Physically Handicapped, Delhi	1.35	1.35	2.00	3.00	3.08	3.64	3.72	3.72
6.	National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Hyderabad	3.32	3.49	5.75	8.50	1.98	2.18	2.39	2.39
7.	National Instt. of Multiple Handicapped	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	—	—	—	—
8.	ALIMCO, Kanpur	0.00	5.40	2.20	1.00	2.00	2.20	—	—
9.	Indian Spinal Injury Centre	2.30	2.07	3.00	3.50	—	—	—	—
10.	Rehabilitation Council of India	3.75	2.20	4.00	3.00	0.71	0.80	0.85	0.85
11.	Employment of Handicapped	0.97	1.53	1.49	2.00	—	—	—	—
12.	National Handicapped Finance & dev. Corporation	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	—	—	—	—
13.	National Trust for the Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy	44.00	51.00	1.00	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Schemes arising out of Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act	4.01	8.71	9.66	6.75	—	—	—	—
15.	Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities*	0.27	0.77	0.90	—	—	—	—	0.90
16.	Technology Development Projects in Mission Mode	0.30	1.03	0.86	1.80	—	—	—	—
17.	Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities	62.12	60.71	75.58	75.00	—	—	—	—
18.	Scheme of Assistance to Disabled persons for purchase/fitting of Adis & Appliances	29.01	43.41	57.00	55.00	—	—	—	—
19.	UNDP funded-Support to children with disabilities	0.18	0.93	2.01	1.00	—	—	—	—
20.	District Rehabilitation Centre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.30	3.63	4.20	4.20
21.	National Programme for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD)**	55.52	43.61	0.00	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Bilateral Agreements	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	7.82	8.00	7.00	3.82
23.	Miscellaneous Schemes								
	(i) IT Plan	—	0.86	0.50	0.25	—	—	—	—
	(ii) Others	0.78	0.45	0.50	0.75	—	—	—	—
24.	New Schemes								
	(i) College of Rehabilitation Sciences etc.	—	—	—	1.00	—	—	—	—

*The scheme has been transferred to non-plan from the year 2003-04.

**Is a State sector scheme to be funded by the States from Xth Plan onwards.

[Translation]

Reduction in Equity of Sambhar Salt Lake

6655. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to off load its 74 per cent equity in Sambhar Lake;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has requested the union Government for providing additional facilities/financial relaxation;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made so far in respect of the above proposals; and

(e) the time by which the control over the said lake is likely to be handed over to the State Government in the interest of the State?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The disinvestment of equity in Sambhar Salts Ltd. (SSL) is under consideration by the Ministry of Disinvestment. No decision regarding percentage of equity to be off loaded in SSL has been taken so far.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The operation of Sambhar Salts Ltd. being dependent on the Sambhar Lake area, the future of Sambhar Lake is connected with the process of disinvestment.

Circular Train Service in Gujarat

6656. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals and representations to introduce circular train service at several places in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Some representations including from Shri Bhavesh Shah of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce, Ahmedabad have been received for introduction of circular trains around Ahmedabad. The matter has been examined but not found feasible.

Electrification of Villages of Jharkhand

6657. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of electrification work in Jharkhand State is quite unsatisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of villages electrified in the State during the last two years, district-wise;

(d) the amount provided for this purpose; and

(e) the number of villages yet to be electrified district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Jharkhand State Electricity Board (JSEB) has come into existence only in 2001, with meagre manpower. Therefore, timely procurement of material required for rural electrification works could not be done during the last two years, resulting in slow progress of rural electrification works in Jharkhand.

(c) 1308 villages have been electrified during the last two years. District-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) In order to accelerate the pace of Rural Electrification in Jharkhand State, Government has provided an amount of Rs. 2819 lakhs under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and an amount of Rs. 379.60 lakhs under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) during the year 2001-02 for rural electrification. Again, during the year 2002-03 an amount of Rs. 6,800 lakhs has been released to Jharkhand State under MNP and an allocation of Rs. 1,116.90 lakhs was made under PMGY for rural electrification.

(e) Out of total 29,336 inhabited villages in Jharkhand State, 22,920 villages are yet to be electrified. District-wise details of unelectrified villages are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

District wise Number of Villages Electrified during last two years in the State of Jharkhand

Sl.No.	District	Electrified during 2001-02	Electrified during 2002-03
1.	Ranchi	26	65
2.	Koderma	29	52
3.	Chatra	8	14
4.	Hazaribagh	52	97
5.	Bokaro	37	78
6.	Dhanbad	73	105
7.	Singhbhum (East)	42	50
8.	Singhbhum (West)	12	13
9.	Saraikela	30	25
10.	Giridih	42	54
11.	Deoghar	25	90
12.	Godda	15	19
13.	Sahebganj	9	6
14.	Dumka	9	23
15.	Jamtara	46	22
16.	Pakur	17	3
17.	Gumla	3	13
18.	Simdega	Nil	2
19.	Lohardaga	1	5
20.	Palamu	24	19
21.	Latehar	8	Nil
22.	Garhwa	29	16
	Total	537	771

Statement II

District-wise number of Un-Electrified Villages in the State of Jharkhand as on 31.3.2003

Sl.No.	District	Total No. of Villages	Village yet to be electrified
1.	Ranchi	2146	1756
2.	Koderma	1033	733
3.	Chatra	1287	1097
4.	Hazaribagh	1025	630
5.	Bokaro	628	320
6.	Dhanbad	1098	270
7.	Singhbhum (East)	1612	1106
8.	Singhbhum (West)	2299	1729
9.	Saraikela		
10.	Giridih	2451	1581
11.	Deoghar	2666	2187
12.	Godda	1881	1641
13.	Sahebganj	1302	1205
14.	Dumka	3776	3354
15.	Jamtara		
16.	Pakur	1121	1028
17.	Gumla	938	817
18.	Simdega	425	407
19.	Lohardaga	350	301
20.	Palamu	1681	1412
21.	Latehar	756	727
22.	Garhwa	861	619
	Total	29336	22920

[English]

Losses to State Electricity Boards

6658. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual losses being incurred by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka State Electricity Boards at present;

(b) the present consumption of power in the above States and the percentage of power generated by their own resources;

(c) the names of acres from which remaining supply of power is made; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to attain self-sufficiency in power generation along with the contribution of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The commercial losses of the power utilities of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka during the year 2001-2002 (Annual Plan figures) were Rs. 2820 crores and Rs. 2340 crores respectively.

(b) The present consumption of power in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for the year 2002-03 and the percentage of power generated from their own resources is as given below:

State	All figures in MU		
	Consumption	State's own generation	%age of own generation in consumption
Andhra Pradesh	44049	35496	81
Karnataka	29084	19920	68

(c) The remaining energy were made available to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka from their share from central sector generating stations as well as import from other States. Andhra Pradesh imported power on bilateral basis from Orissa and Karnataka from Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal in the year 2002-03.

(d) To meet power requirement of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka a capacity addition of 3055.20 MW and 1297 MW respectively have been programmed during Tenth Plan in the State/Private Sectors.

In addition Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are entitled to their share in the allocation from central generating stations.

[Translation]

National Scholarship Scheme for Handicapped Students

6659. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a national scholarship scheme for handicapped students willing to pursue higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of handicapped students proposed to be provided scholarship every year; and

(d) the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Scheme of National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities has been introduced from the year 2002-2003. Under this, financial assistance is provided to disabled students for pursuing Professional and Technical courses of duration not less than one year. The monthly family income of the beneficiary should not be more than Rs. 15,000 from all sources. The amount of scholarship varies from Rs. 400 per month for day scholars to Rs. 1,000 per month for hostellers. The Scheme is included in the Ministry's web site www.socialjustice.nic.in.

(c) 500 scholarships are proposed to be given every year.

(d) The Scheme is implemented utilizing the National Fund for People with Disability.

[English]

Legislation Regarding SC Status to Neo-Buddhists

6660. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI A.C. JOS:
SHRI TARA CHAND BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the time of passing the legislation for giving Scheduled Caste status to the Neo-Buddhists in May, 1990, Government had given an assurance that Government would sympathetically consider giving the same status to Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the above assurance for so many years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) During discussion on the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1990 in Rajya Sabha, on May, 29, 1990, the Hon'ble Minister, Labour and Welfare had mentioned that cases of both the Scheduled Castes converted to Christianity and Muslim religion would be considered.

(b) The proposal concerning the issue of inclusion of Scheduled Castes converted to Christianity, in the list of Scheduled Castes has been considered by the Government in consultation with Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and it has not been possible to accede to the proposal. The Committee on Government Assurances has also been informed accordingly on 31.7.2002, in the case of Assurance given in the Rajya Sabha on 8.3.1996. As regards the proposal regarding inclusion of Scheduled Castes converted to Muslim religion, in the list of Scheduled Castes, whereas the views of the Registrar General of India have been received, the views of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are awaited.

Utilisation of Excess Land of DD/AIR

6661. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press news item captioned "AIR's 'no man's land' lies unused" as reported in *The Statesman* dated April 16, 2003;

(b) if so, whether several square metres of excess land of Doodarshan/All India Radio is lying unused all over the country;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the concrete plans formulated to make such land in proper use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Misuse of Funds by NGOs

6662. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints of misuse of funds by NGOs allotted to them as grant in Aid for welfare of Scheduled Castes, have been received by the Government during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, NGO-wise, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those NGOs found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are given in the statement annexed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Organisation	Name of Projects	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Praja Abyudaya Seva Samiti, Chittoor, AP	Residential School and Craft Centre	No truth was found in the complaint by inspecting officers of the Ministry.
2.	Peda Prajala Seva Samiti, Chittoor, AP	Residential School, Type &	State Government of Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3	4
		shorthand and Computer Training Centre	has been requested for detailed investigation and report.
3.	West Bengal SC, Tribes and Minority Welfare Association, Midnapore, West Bengal	ITI and Computer Training Centre	No truth was found in the complaint by officers of the Ministry.
4.	Shri Durga Education Society, Chittoor, AP	Craft Centre	It was inspected by Joint inspection Team and the organization was black-listed.
5.	Harijan Sevak Sangh, Kingsway Camp, Delhi	Residential Schools at Tamil Nadu and Orissa	State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Orissa have been requested for detailed investigation and report.
6.	Sri Sai Mahila Mandali Prakasam, AP	Non Residential School	No truth has been found in the complaint by inspecting officers of the Ministry.
7.	Mahalaxmi Mahila Samiti, Dhenkanal, Orissa	Craft Centre	State Government of Orissa has been requested for detailed investigation and report.
8.	Aayush Foundation, D/4, Panchavati Appts, Panchavati Cross Road, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Craft Centre	An officer of this Ministry has been deputed to conduct inspection of the project.

Funds allocated for Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan

6663. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan by the Government during 2000-2003;

(b) the details of actual fund given to the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether the above States have given their share in the S.C.P. and T.S.P.; and

(d) if not, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) The State Governments formulate Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) by earmarking funds under each sector for the development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively. The Central Government releases the Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan as an additive to Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan of the State Governments. The details are attached in a statement.

Statement

(a) The details are as follows:

Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) released to States/UTs

(Rs. in crores)

Year	SCA to SCP	SCA to TSP
2000-2001	450.39	400.00
2001-2002	452.51	500.00
2002-2003	434.04	500.00

(b) to (d) The details are as follows:

Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) released to Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and the Allocation for SCP and TSP in the State Plans

(Rs. in crores)

Name of States	SCA to SCP			SCA to TSP			Allocation for SCP in State Plan			Allocation for TSP in State Plan		
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Gujarat	15.22	12.28	5.60	31.40	39.31	39.31	309.76	211.40	252.18	838.89	445.44	778.99
Rajasthan	37.39	30.05	34.23	29.15	36.50	36.50	673.92	718.43	895.73	246.56	366.27	345.07
Andhra Pradesh	37.20	35.52	72.16	21.83	27.33	27.33	450.51	406.72	870.00	93.52	608.54	NA
Maharashtra	27.22	33.14	10.27	29.75	37.24	37.24	508.55	550.00	530.27	525.00	567.00	NA
Madhya Pradesh	17.20	11.48	25.98	62.57	78.33	78.33	432.73	466.33	611.79	566.95	631.20	867.66

Protection of Retirement Benefits

6664. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to woo the PSU officers and workers to seek retirement, the Government has offered them protection of retirement benefits or attractive compensation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expenditure on the same will be borne by PSUs or the Government; and

(d) the manner in which the officers and workers of PSUs will be absorbed in case of privatisation of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Government have provided for exgratia compensation under voluntary retirement scheme in May, 2000 and November, 2001 under which broadly the enterprises which are financially sound may implement variants of the VRS but the compensation in no case shall exceed 60 days salary for each completed year of service or the salary for the number of months of service left, whichever is less. Enterprises that are marginally profit or loss making may adopt Gujarat pattern of VRS under which compensation will consist of salary of 35 days for every completed year of service and 25 days for every year for the balance of service left until superannuation. For the sick and unviable units, the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) of Department of Heavy Industry may be adopted, in which an employee would be entitled to an ex-gratia payment equivalent to 45 days salary for each completed year of service or the salary equivalent to the balance months of service left, whichever is less. Under the further liberalized scheme of November 2001, the employees can opt for VRS under Gujarat Pattern or the VSS package of Department of Heavy Industry. Further in respect of employees who are on pay scales at 1.1.87 and 1.1.92 levels, ex-gratia payments computed on their existing pay scales in accordance with the extant scheme, shall be increased by 100% and 50% respectively.

(d) Protection of employees' interest is an integral part of disinvestment/privatisation policy. Adequate provisions are made in the Transaction Agreements to ensure that there is no retrenchment of employees for one year after disinvestment/privatisation and even thereafter, separation is possible under VRS under the Government guidelines or under the VRS of the company itself, whichever is beneficial.

[Translation]

Empowerment of Women belonging to Other Backward Classes

6665. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been formulated by the Government for empowerment of women belonging to backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds proposed to be spent by the Government on implementation of the schemes alongwith the funds spent on implementation of these schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing the following Schemes for educational and economic development of OBCs which includes woman beneficiaries:

(i) Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC students;

(ii) Post-matric Scholarships for OBC students;

(iii) Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls;

(iv) Pre-examination coaching for OBCs;

(v) Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for the Welfare of OBCs; and

(vi) National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

NBCFDC, apart from its various loan schemes, is also implementing "New Swarnima" Scheme for OBC women living below the poverty line (i.e. annual family income below Rs. 20,000 in rural areas and Rs. 27,500 in urban areas). Under the Scheme the Corporation provides loan to eligible women OBC beneficiaries to the extent of Rs. 50,000/- at concessional rate of interest of 4% per annum through the State Chennelising Agencies (SCAs). The Corporation provides 95% of the loan amount and the SCA contributes 5%. The maximum period of repayment is 10 years.

(c) The details of funds spent during last 3 years and proposed to be spent on these schemes for the target group including women beneficiaries are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Scheme	Amount			Amount proposed to spend in 2003-04
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	
Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC students	6.00	17.40	18.74	17.00
Post-matric Scholarships for OBC students;	8.99	21.96	28.42	23.99
Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls;	5.00	11.45	14.33	13.00
Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Welfare of OBCs;	1.57	3.80	4.80	5.00
Pre-examination Coaching for OBCs;	0.01	0.65	0.17	6.40**
NBCFDC	87.01	119.35	125.93	120.00

The Corporation has disbursed Rs. 25.80 crore to the women OBC beneficiaries under the Swarnima Scheme during last three years.
**Proposed to be sent on beneficiaries belonging to SCs, OBCs and Minorities.

Import of LPG

6666. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether L.P.G. is imported to meet the growing demand;

(b) if so, the quantity of L.P.G. imported during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, year-wise;

(c) the quantity of L.P.G. imported by the Public and Private Sector Companies, separately; and

(d) the prices at which L.P.G. was purchased by the private/public sector companies during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of LPG imported during 2000-2001, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is as under:

Year	Qty. in TMT
2000-01	853
2001-02	659
2002-03 (Provisional)	1061

(c) The quantity of LPG imported by public and private sector companies is as under:

(Qty. in TMT)

Year	Public	Private
2000-01	674	179
2001-02	481	178
2002-03 (Provisional)	865	196

(d) The average price at which LPG was purchased during each of the year as above by public sector companies is given below:

Year	Rs./MT
2000-01	15,623
2001-02	12,328
2002-03 (Provisional)	18,127

[English]

Tobacco Products Bill

6667. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Products Bill prohibits sponsorship of sports and atheletic events by Cigarette and other tobacco manufacturing companies;

(b) whether this ban extends to airing of advertisement of cigarettes and other tobacco products advertisements in print or electronic media;

(c) whether the Doordarshan has booked the rights for the live telecast of all 16 races of 2003 FIA Formula 1 Championship heavily supported and sponsored by international tobacco majors;

(d) whether the decision of DD to telecast F 1 that is visibly sponsored by tobacco majors contravenes Clauses 4(1) and 4(2a) of the Tobacco Products Bill; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has approved the telecast of Formula-I 2003, through WS&RF (Wallace Sports and Research Foundation) who is right holder of the event. The telecast of event on DD is not sponsored by any Tobacco International major.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that it is not being sponsored by any tobacco company.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of Thermal Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh

6668. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up Thermal Power Project in the region of Mahaboob Nagar district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have already made a survey long back ago for setting up of 500 MW Thermal Project in the above region;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the status of the survey and the reasons for this inordinate delay in implementation of the plan; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Tapping of NCES

6669. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has not so far made as much progress in tapping non-conventional energy sources as has been made by many other Asian countries;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether there is a need for realistic renewable energy policy; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) India has made significant progress in tapping non-conventional energy as compared to some other Asian countries. Amongst the Asian countries, India ranks first in wind power, second in biogas plants and photovoltaics and third in solar water heaters. There already exists a policy for the promotion of renewable energy and a number of fiscal and financial incentives are available under various programmes/ schemes of the Ministry.

[Translation]

Additional allocation for Rail Projects in Bihar

6670. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been huge increase in the expenditure of on-going rail projects in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government of Bihar has made any demand for additional allocation for various rail projects in the State;

(c) if so, the quantum of funds sanctioned for the said projects, project-wise; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The details of outlay for 2003-2004 and target dates for completion of on-going Railway projects wherever fixed, in Bihar are given as under:

Name of Project		Outlay for 2003-2004 (Rs. in crores)	Target date for completion
1		2	3
NEW LINES			
1.	Ara-Sasaram	16.00	Sasaram-Nokha in 2003-2004
2.	Deogarh-Sultanganj including Material Modification Ext. from Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bhitiah Road	9.00	not yet fixed
3.	Duraunda-Maharajganj	1.00	Work completed
4.	Fatuha-Islampur-Restoration with Material Modification for new line from Biharsharif-Barbigha	12.00	Fatuha-Islampur line completed and commissioned
5.	Khagaria-Kusheshwarsthan	2.00	Not yet fixed

1		2	3
6.	Koderma-Tilaiya	15.00	Targeted for completion during 2005-2006
7.	Kosi Bridge	10.00	New work included in Budget 2003-2004
8.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	10.00	Rampurhat-Dumka by 2006-2007
9.	Munger-Rail Bridge on Ganga	30.00	Not yet fixed.
10.	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi	12.00	Not yet fixed.
11.	Patna-Ganga bridge with linking lines between Patna and Hajipur	50.00	2007-2008
12.	Rajgir-Hisua-Tilaiya	12.00	2005-2006
13.	Sakri-Hassanpur	10.00	Not yet fixed.
GAUGE CONVERSION			
1.	Chhapra-Aunrihar	0.01	Completed and commissioned
2.	Hajipur-Bachwara	0.01	Completed and commissioned
3.	Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	18.00	Not yet fixed.
4.	Kaptanganj-Thave-Siwan-Chhapra	10.00	Not yet fixed.
5.	Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar-Radhikapur	21.00	Targeted for completion in 2005
6.	Mansi-Saharsa incl. Material Modification for extension upto Dauram Madhepura	16.00	Mansi-Saharsa targeted for completion in 2004.
7.	Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar	0.06	Completed and commissioned
8.	Raxaul-Birganj	0.01	Completed and commissioned
9.	Samastipur-Darbhanga	0.01	Completed and commissioned
10.	Samastipur-Khagaria	5.00	Not yet fixed.
Doubling			
1.	Barauni-Tilrath Bypass	1.00	New work included in Budget 2003-2004
2.	Chhapra-Hajipur	8.00	Not yet fixed.
3.	Gaya-Chakhand	2.00	2004-2005.
4.	Jahanabad-Bela	1.00	New work inclued in Budget 2003-2004
5.	Kajra-Kiul	2.56	Not yet fixed.
6.	Karpurigram-Siho	7.00	Siho-Dholi completed. Balance section targeted for completion in 2003-2004
7.	Katihar-Semapur	2.00	Not yet fixed
8.	Kishanganj-Dalkolha	0.01	Completed and commissioned
9.	Mansi-Maheshkhunt	1.00	New work included in Budget 2003-2004
10.	Parsa Bazar-Panpun (Patna-Gaya, Phase-II)	1.00	Work completed.
11.	Patna-Parsa Bazar (Patna-Gaya, Phase-I)	0.03	Completed and commissioned

1		2	3
12.	Punpun-Taregna (Patna-Gaya, Phase-III)	5.00	Targeted for completion during 2003-2004
13.	Sahibganj-New Farakka-Malda	0.01	Completed and commissioned
14.	Sonenagar-Mugalsarai	0.01	Completed and commissioned
15.	Taregna-Jahanabad	2.00	Not yet fixed.
ELECTRIFICATION			
1.	Patna-Gaya	5.50	June 2003.
2.	Sitarampur-Danapur-Mugalsarai	1.45	Work completed.

[English]

CNG Facilities at Petrol Pumps

6671. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the petrol pump owners in Delhi who had applied for providing CNG facility at their petrol pumps till March 31, 2003;

(b) the number of petrol pumps in respect of which approval for providing CNG facility has been accorded alongwith dates on which the above approval was accorded; and

(c) the time by which all the applications in this regard are likely to be disposed of and CNG facilities are likely to be made available at all the petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Government or Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) have not invited application for CNG stations from the existing petrol pump owners.

(b) and (c) As on date, IGL has created CNG facility in 35 numbers of retail outlets operating in Delhi. A list of such retail outlets is enclosed as statement-I. Apart from above 20 more retail outlets have been provisionally selected by IGL for providing CNG facilities. The list of these additional 20 retail outlets is enclosed as statement-II. IGL is having a careful assessment of these 20 retail outlets with regard to the suitability in terms of distance from the gas pipeline, the market demand of CNG in and around these stations and the safety related issues. The tentative time schedule for this augmentation is end December, 2003.

Statement I

List of Retail Outlets Operating in Delhi with CNG Facilities

Sl.No.	Name of the Petrol Pump	Name of Oil Marketing Company
1	2	3
1.	Arawali S/S	BPCL
2.	Gymkhana S/S	BPCL
3.	G.S. Bhasin	BPCL
4.	Deepak Automobile	BPCL
5.	Mukul Diesel	BPCL
6.	Syall	BPCL
7.	Vaibhav	BPCL
8.	Veejay	BPCL
9.	Rajendra S/S	BPCL
10.	R.S. Bhola Ram	BPCL
11.	Vinod	BPCL
12.	Budh Singh Gulab Singh	BPCL
13.	Bagga Link	BPCL
14.	Bhatia S/S	IOCL
15.	Sethi, NH-8	IOCL
16.	Superauto Centre	IOCL
17.	I.P. Service Station	IOCL

1	2	3
18.	Surya Service Station	IOCL
19.	Kapoor Auto S/S	IOCL
20.	Jindal Service Station	IOCL
21.	Pragati Service Station	IOCL
22.	Kigsway S/S	IOCL
23.	Shivan	IOCL
24.	Siwesh	IOCL
25.	Shankar Automobiles	IOCL
26.	Raj Super S/S	IOCL
27.	Anand Service Station	HPCL
28.	Rajeev S/S	HPCL
29.	Hemkunt	HPCL
30.	Evergreen	HPCL
31.	Bedi	HPCL
32.	Automotive S/S	HPCL
33.	Savita Filling Station	IBP
34.	Aman Fill Point	IBP
35.	Car Care	IBP

Statement II

List of 20 Retail Outlets for CNG Facility Co-Location by June 2003

Sl.No.	Station Name	Location	RO	Type of Station
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Auto Rink	Badarpur Mathura Road	BPCL	DB
2.	Nemchand Tarachand	G.T.K. Road	BPCL	Online
3.	Saksham Motors	Hari Nagar, Near DDU Hospital	BPCL	DB
4.	Sidhu S.S.	G.T.K. Road	BPCL	Online
5.	Chadha S.S.	Delhi Gate	HPCL	DB
6.	Deep Fuel Centre	Vikas Marg Extension, Karkardooma	HPCL	DB
7.	Rakesh F.S.	Varun Niketan	IBP	Online
8.	Shrioil	Noida TPT	IBP	Online
9.	Lotus Automobiles	Andheria More	IBP	DB
10.	Ajit Motor	Delhi Cantt.	IOC	DB
11.	Speedways S.C.	Jail Road	IOC	Online
12.	A.K. Batra	Sanjay Lake	HPCL	Online
13.	Uggarsain & Sons	Shahdara, Old NH-24	HPCL	DB
14.	Auto Grit	Mehrauli Badarpur Road	BPCL	DB
15.	Chadha OIL CO.	Shivaji Park	HPCL	Online

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Associated S/S	Alipur	HPCL	DB
17.	SD SOIN & Sons	Qudsia Road	IBP	DB
18.	Sansar S/S	Nangloi Dhansa Border	BPCL	DB
19.	Tuli	Raja Garden	IOC	Online
20.	Arora S/S	Pitam Pura	IOC	DB

Recovery of amount from Various Political Parties

6672. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have to recover a lot of amount from various political parties and other for running special trains for them and on their request to carry persons joining their rallies at various places;

(b) if so, the upto date details thereof, indicating the names of parties/persons, the amount outstanding against each of them and since when outstanding; and

(c) the efforts made by the Railways to recover the outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Two special trains were run from Barddhaman to Bolepur on 12.12.1981 on demand placed by the General Secretary, West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee (WBPCC). An amount of Rs. 1,13,316 is outstanding against WBPCC. Though matter has been taken up with WBPCC regularly over the years, the said amount remains outstanding for want of payment by the party.

Problem for Local People Due to Closing of Unmanned Railway Crossings

6673. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the closing of the unmanned railway crossings have led to problems for the local people;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to appoint gatemen at such railway level crossings;

(c) if so, the time by which the unmanned railway crossings are likely to be converted to manned level crossings alongwith their locations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. Level crossings are closed only after obtaining specific consent of the State Govt.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Implementation of Programmes by Rehabilitation Council of India

6674. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether to achieve the objective of universalisation of rehabilitation services, the Rehabilitation Council of India has come out with a Vision Document-2010;

(b) if so, the main features of the document;

(c) the total number of special education teachers and other professionals that have been trained and registered with the RCI till December, 2003;

(d) whether there is a need to accelerate progress and garner more funds for implementation of various programmes in the field of rehabilitation and special education; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Rehabilitation Council of India has prepared a vision Document 2000-2010 which addresses the areas of awareness, education, community based rehabilitation, publication and geriatric rehabilitation.

(c) 8967 special education teachers and 12910 other professionals have been registered with the RCI as on 31.12.2002.

(d) and (e) The human resource development programmes related to rehabilitation services including special education are being expanded and improved outreach is being achieved through assistance to NGOs and institutions working under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Rehabilitation of Scavengers

6675. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of allocation made to various States for the rehabilitation of scavengers in dignified occupation during last three years;

(b) the basis of which the allocation has been made to various States; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by each State to rehabilitate the scavengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Funds under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS) are released to various States on the basis of number of scavengers identified by a survey in a State and proposal submitted by the State.

(c) State SCDCs identify the scavengers and their dependents, provide training to the scavengers in the age group of 15-50 years in suitable trades keeping in view of the local conditions vis-a-vis their efficiency and then rehabilitate them in projects costing upto Rs. 50,000 by providing subsidy, Margin Money Loan and loans from banks and National Safai Karamchari Finance & Development Corporation. Scavengers are also rehabilitated in groups under the concept of "Sanitary Mart".

Statement

Funds released to various States under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS) during the last three years

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	2.25	29.67
2.	Assam	3.72	0.00	0.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.40
4.	Karnataka	0.00	6.95	8.88
5.	Maharashtra	21.35	0.00	0.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	15.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Jharkhand	10.85	0.00	0.00
8.	Uttaranchal	10.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	60.92	9.20	40.95

[Translation]

Raksha Kavach for the Safety of the passengers

6676. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce 'Raksha Kavach' for the safety of the passengers;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any progress in this regard so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to provide Raksha Kavach (Anti Collision Device-ACD) on Indian Railways progressively. To start with, provision of ACD on about 1800 route kms. (RKms) of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), have been taken up. ACD survey works are also in progress on 1641 RKms of section on Southern and

South Central Railway. ACD survey on additional 10,000 RKms, to cover selected routes on Indian Railways, have also been sanctioned. Further work of provision of ACD on about 1750 RKms of section on Southern, South Central and Northern Railways has also been sanctioned, which will be taken up after successful completion of work on NFR.

Disinvestment in Railways

6677. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce disinvestment of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified the routes/ areas/sectors of Indian Railways which are likely to be disinvested; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Social Security Fund for Disabled

6678. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a Social Security Fund for extremely disabled persons in the country;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked therefor, State-wise;

(c) the norms prescribed for the sanction of fund to the disabled; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the schemes for the extremely disabled persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no separate scheme for the extremely disabled persons. However, the Ministry provides financial support to the National Trust for persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities, National and Apex Institutions in the disability sector and voluntary organizations running rehabilitation programmes for disabled persons including those with severe disabilities.

Poor Living Conditions

6679. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the news "Where humans must crawl into homes" published in the *Pioneer* on 12th February, 2003;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry and the action taken by the government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from the Ministry of Urban Development and the Agra Development Authority.

Centres working for Handicapped Persons in Rajasthan

6680. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of centres working in Rajasthan for the handicapped persons and receiving grants from the Union Government;

(b) the names and addresses/locations of these centres and grants given to each of the centre during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints regarding mis-utilization of funds by some of these centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof and outcome of the audit carried out by the Ministry of these centres; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to streamline functioning of these Centres/NGOs and to curb malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) A statement containing details of assistance given to 28 centres in Rajasthan, year-wise during the period 2000-01 to 2002-03 under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances and District Rehabilitation Centre Scheme, is annexed.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The projects run by these centers are inspected periodically by the agencies of the State Govt. and of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Grants for subsequent years are sanctioned only on the basis of satisfactory inspection reports on the functioning and proper utilization of earlier year grants.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name and Address of the Centres	Name of the Project	Amount (Rs. in lakh)		
			2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Badhit Bal Vikas Samiti's Vaishali Nagar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan	Purchase of Vehicle	0.00	4.49	0.00
2.	Navdeep Vikas Samiti C-6, Hasan Khan Mewati Nagar, Alwar, Rajasthan	Special School for MR	0.00	2.16	5.42
3.	Navdisha Vikas Samiti C-6, Hasan Khan, Mewati Nagar, Alwar, Rajasthan	Construction of Building	5.00	8.50	0.00
		School cum VTC	8.60	10.08	10.65
4.	Jeevan Nirman Sansthan 1, Gol Bagh Road, Bharatpur-321001, Rajasthan	Special School for Deaf & Dumb	1.11	2.10	2.32
5.	Mahila Bal Vikas Gramodhyog Shiksha Samiti 470, Rajendra Nagar, Bharatpur, Rajasthan	School cum VTC for MR	0.00	1.89	0.00
6.	Badhir Bal Kalyan Vikas Samiti Chatur Clinic, M.G. Hospital Road, Bhilwara-311001, Rajasthan	Residential School for Deaf	13.38	17.02	14.41
		Special School for Blind	3.70	2.11	1.09
		Distribution of Aids and Appliances	—	2.00	2.00
7.	Sona Viklang Punarwas Avam Shodh Sansthan Ashok Nagar, Bhilwara-311001, Rajasthan	Special School for MR	4.12	5.29	6.28
8.	Saur Chetna Evam Urja Vigyan Shodh Sansthan 'Sewa Viklang' Sector 6, Hanumangarh Jn. 335512, Rajasthan	Special School for MR	0.00	2.12	5.30
9.	Chetna Samvardhan Samiti Surya Marg, Tilak Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Education and VTC for MR Children	6.16	11.79	13.38
10.	Disha-Centre for Special Education F-139, Shyam Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Special School for MR	0.00	8.79	9.52
11.	Indian Council of Social Welfare Sector No. 6, Heera Path, Mansarovar, Jaipur-302020, Rajasthan	VTC for Adult	8.75	8.01	8.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Jaimini Shikshan Evam Gramin Vikas Sansthan C-234, Dayanand Marg, Tilak Nagar, Jaipur	VTC for Disabled	0.00	0.00	1.58
13.	Prayas, Centre for Special Education & Vocational Training 343, Lane No. 2, Raja Park, Jaipur-302004, Rajasthan	Special Education & Vocational Training Centre	0.00	0.00	1.07
14.	Rajasthan Netraheen Kalyan Sangh 3780, Langer Ke Balaji Ka Rasta, Gangauri Bazaar, Jaipur-302001, Rajasthan	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind	0.00	0.99	4.20
15.	Society for Welfare of Mentally Handicapped 36-A, Suraj Nagar (East), Civil Lines, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Nirmal Vivek School and Hostel	5.13	5.15	5.19
16.	Jodhpur Badhir Kalyan Samiti's Basni Tambolia, Magra Pungla, Jodhpur-342303, Rajasthan	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Deaf & Dumb	0.00	0.48	0.00
17.	Sucheta Kriplani Shiksha Niketan PO Manaklao-342305, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	Education cum VTC for OH	0.00	0.00	3.76
18.	Badhit Bal Vikas Kendra 132, Station Road, Kota-324002, Rajasthan	Hostel and VTC for Deaf	0.00	2.90	2.73
19.	Shardhalaya Ashram Samiti In front of Jhala House, Surajpole, Kota, Rajasthan	CBR Programme	0.00	1.84	6.88
		Education cum VTC for Handicapped	1.09	6.25	3.13
20.	Tagore Gramin Utthan Samiti 1 D-4, Vigyan Nagar, Kota, Rajasthan	VTC for Disabled (Chittorgarh)	0.00	1.98	0.00
21.	Nab Pheroze & Noshir Merwanji Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind "East View", Mount Abu-307501, Rajasthan	Maintenance of Hostel for Blind	0.00	0.57	0.00
22.	LKC Sri Jagdamba Andh Vidyalaya Samiti Hanumangarh Road, Sriganganagar-335001, Rajasthan	Construction of School/Hostel Building	2.00	1.00	0.00
		School cum Hostel for Blind and Deaf	34.16	34.09	21.94
23.	Manohar Bal Mandir Samiti 5D Block, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	Community Based Rehabilitation Programme	0.00	0.00	3.33
24.	Tapovan Manovikas Vidyalaya 4, M.I. Limbawali, National Highway, Suratgarh Road, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan	Construction of Hostel	0.00	2.50	2.50
		Maintenance of Hostel for MR Children	0.29	3.78	4.02
25.	Narayan Sewa Sansthan 483, Hiran Magri, Sector-4, Udaipur, Rajasthan	CBR Programme	0.49	3.75	2.25
		Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled	0.00	3.05	0.00
		Distribution of Aids and Appliances	60.00	80.00	100.00
26.	Prayas-Prachya Shodh Peet Samiti 30-A, C-1, Bhuwalpura, Udaipur-313001, Rajasthan	Special School for MR	0.00	3.15	0.00
27.	Bhagwan Mahaveer Vikalang Sahayata Samity, SMS Hospital, Jaipur	Distribution of Aids and Appliances	300.00	300.00	371.03
28.	District Rehabilitation Centre, Social Welfare Deptt. MBS Hospital Campus, Kota-324002, Rajasthan	Distribution of Aids and Appliances/DRC scheme.	16.00	17.92	28.25

Agreement with Alstom Company for Power Distribution

6681. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation has made any agreement with Alstom Company of United Kingdom for distribution of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has objection against this accord;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) POWERGRID have informed that the Corporation has not entered into any agreement with M/s. Alstom of United Kingdom for distribution of power in the country.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

State-of-Art-Locos

6682. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have prepared long term plan to import State-of-the-art locos and coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of State-of-the-art locos and coaches imported by Indian Railways during the last three years;

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon, separately; and

(e) the type of locos and coaches manufactured in the country during the last three years, factory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. Railways have no long-term plan to import locos.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 10 Nos. of 4000 Horse Power diesel electric locos for passenger service and 24 nos. of All Metal Light Weight Coaches.

(d) Free-on-Board (FOB) prices of locos is US$23,989,350 (Rs. 105 crore approx).

The landed cost of these locomotives was Rs. 178 crore approx.

FOB prices of 24 nos. All Metal Light Weight Coaches is—Deutsche Marks 52,663,000 (Rs. 106 crore approx).

The landed cost of these coaches is—Rs. 159 crore approx.

(e) A Statement is attached.

Statement

(e) The type of locos and coaches manufactured in the country during the last three years, factory-wise are as under:

Coaches	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
	ICF	RCF	ICF	RCF	ICF	RCF
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
AC Coach	93	198	100	275	98	223
Non AC Coach	691	867	789	751	630	579
EMU Coach	111	—	71	—	72	—
DMU Coach	65	—	57	—	30	12
MEMU Coach	40	40	—	48	84	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
POW					21	
OHE Car			8		9	
MG Coach		85		130		130
Total	1000	1190	1025	1204	944	944

CLW: Electric Loco DLW: Diesel loco

Type	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Type	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
WAP-5	2	6	1	WDS-6	3	—	—
WAG-9	5	—	7	WDP-2	30		
WAG-5	—	40	—	WDM-2C	20	41	—
WAG-7	62	—	27	Export	5	8	10
WAP1/3/4	—	34	—	WDG-2	44	50	—
WAP-4	50	2	28	PKD Loco	1	—	—
WAP-7	1	—	6	WDG-4	—	3	19
Total	120	82	69	WDP-4	—	—	1
				WDG3A	—	—	55
				WDM3A	—	—	25
				NRC			6
				Total	103	102	116

Projects of GAIL

6683. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects of Gas Authority of India Limited which could not be completed during the Ninth Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for not completing the projects;

(c) the present status of these projects including the cost overrun in each of these projects; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to see that these projects are completed expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The plan outlay approved for the 9th Plan in respect of GAIL (India) Limited was Rs. 6417.95 crore, of which, Rs. 5715 crore were provided for schemes pertaining to Petroleum Sector and Rs. 702.95 crore for Petrochemical Sector. The actual expenditure against above Plan outlay during the Ninth Plan period was Rs. 4531.45 crore. The major schemes, which could not be completed during the Ninth Plan, the reasons for shortfall, the present status of these projects and steps taken for completion are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Projects not completed during Ninth Plan and Reasons thereof pertaining to GAIL (India) Limited

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Total Outlay Ninth Plan	Actual Ninth Plan Expenditure	Shortfall	Reasons for Shortfall	Steps taken for completion
1.	Dadri Bawana Pipeline	82	0	(82)	The Power Plant for which gas allocations made has been shifted to Pragati Power and the pipeline has been completed at a cost of Rs. 3 crore.	No further investment is required in the project.
2.	Power Plants in Joint Venture	400	21	(379)	Rs. 20.76 crore paid as equity contribution for participation in GSEG Power Projects in July 2001.	No further investments planned in Power Sector as equity.
3.	LNG East Coast	200	0	(200)	Project being implemented by IOC.	Not applicable
4.	GREP Expansion	985	5	(980)	Expenditure linked with Petronet LNG Ltd. terminal commissioning at Dahej now expected to come up in 2003-04.	As on 31.3.2003 he project has achieved an overall progress of 18.90%. The line pipe manufacturers are being expedited for delivery of pipes by June/July 2003. The project is expected to be completed by September 2004 in phases.
Sub Total		1667	26	(1641)		
Total Ninth Plan Outlay		6417.95	4531.45	(1887)		

[Translation]

Long Term Agreements In PSUs

6684. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector undertakings which signed long term agreements during the last three years and till date alongwith the details in this regard; and

(b) the minimum and maximum additional benefit which can be given to the workers in each of the PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE

PATIL): (a) and (b) The public sector enterprises have option to enter into wage negotiations for 10 years or 5 years subject to certain stipulations. The list of enterprises, which negotiated or 10 years or 5 years, is not centrally monitored. The Government have not prescribed the minimum and maximum of additional benefits that can be given to the workers, except stipulating that the negotiated wages would not come in conflict with the wage revision of officers and non-unionized supervisors of public enterprises.

[English]

Funds for Existing Development Projects

6685. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated more funds for the development of various existing development projects executed by his Ministry in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various centrally assisted schemes in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(c) whether the money allocated for various schemes and projects in Tamil Nadu State during the above period are not utilized fully; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Details of funds provided to Tamil Nadu under the (i) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (50%) of the project cost given as grant and loan in equal proportion by Central Government) and (ii) Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (Interest Subsidy on disbursed amount @3% in 10th Plan) are given below:

(i) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme

(Rs. in crore)

	Sanctioned	Released	Utilised
2000-01	65.54	65.54	65.54
2002-03	484.09	111.57	77.14

*No release in 2001-02.

(ii) Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme.

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount disbursed
2000-01	266.03
2001-02	441.71
2002-03	336

Irregularities and Violations of Rules

6686. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether C&AG in its report No. 9 of 2001 (Railways) in Chapter 3 had brought out many irregularities and violations of rules resulting into losses amounting several hundred crores of rupees viz. Rs. 214.13 crore;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken in those matters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to check such irregularities and violation of rules in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The C&AG, in 35 paragraphs of Chapter 3 of its Report No. 9 of 2001 (Railways), has observed non-realisation of revenue on various accounts.

(b) to (d) As per the laid down procedure, Action Taken Notes on Audit paragraphs included in the C&AG's Report are furnished to Public Accounts Committee duly vetted by the Audit. Suitable remedial/corrective action is taken, whereever necessary.

Earnings and Expenditure in Railways

6687. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the expenditure and earnings of the Railways during each of the last three years, zone-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase the earnings and reduce the expenditure in railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Zone-wise Earnings and Total Working Expenses of Indian Railways during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Railway Zone	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Total Earnings	Total Working Expenses	Total Earnings	Total Working Expenses	Total Earnings	Total Working Expenses
Central	5418.37	4831.91	5737.15	5305.29	6536.18	5511.41
Eastern	3655.69	4131.55	3793.43	4566.48	3914.76	4742.03
Northern	6221.73	5143.69	6301.56	5683.36	6575.89	5906.51
North Eastern	1043.99	1597.84	1164.14	1818.89	1241.57	1916.48
Northeast Frontier	682.71	1373.87	767.90	1600.28	957.26	1671.08
Southern	2338.27	2679.55	2600.25	3140.57	2606.97	3251.10
South Central	3234.70	2759.91	3625.03	3132.92	3797.06	3356.42
South Eastern	5950.39	4534.37	6561.94	5151.13	7158.36	5443.39
Western	4551.93	3706.39	4701.80	4171.83	5031.32	4392.81
Metro	26.93	84.91	34.38	96.59	39.17	101.98

(b) Steps to increase the earnings:

1. Rationalisation of Freight and Fare structure in Railway Budgets 2002-03 and 2003-04.
2. Reduction in freight classification of 22 commodities.
3. Assigning Train-load classification for all commodities.
4. Liberalisation of station-to station rate scheme to granting concessions in specific streams of traffic.
5. Higher concession for short lead traffic up to 100 km.
6. Rationalisation and reduction of parcel rates.
7. Running of scheduled parcel Express trains on fixed time table.
8. Drives against ticket-less travel.
9. Running of Special trains & attaching extra coaches to clear rush.
10. Augmentation of the composition of trains during peak season.
11. Increasing the coaches of trains to 24.
12. Introduction of new trains.
13. Increase in frequency of trains.

Steps to reduce the expenditure:

(1) Zonal Railways have been instructed to effect saving in revenue expenditure to compensate for unavoidable post-budgetary increases such as revision of diesel prices, hike in power tariff, increase in rates of certain allowances/incentive bonus etc.

(2) Tight control over expenditure in areas such as fuel & power consumption, contractual payments, over time allowance, purchase of materials etc.

(3) Austerity and economy measures in areas such as hospitality, publicity, advertisements, inaugural ceremonies, seminars & workshops, contingent office expenses etc.

(4) Prioritization of expenditure on works for better use of available resources.

(5) Productive use of manpower.

(6) Better utilisation of assets.

(7) Various steps taken to reduce the cost of operation and maintenance of rolling stock.

(8) Improvement in inventory management.

Price of Set Top Box

6688. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had any dialogue regarding price of alternative set top boxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the technologies available in this regard;

(c) whether pay channels and MSO will bear the cost;

(d) if so, the way in which the cost will be brought down;

(e) the extent to which it will be useful to the consumers;

(f) whether the Ministry has asked to Finance Ministry for relaxation of duties in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is in dialogue, with the stakeholders of the cable industry including the manufacturers, regarding pricing and technologies of set top boxes. It is expected that both digital and analogue set top boxes could be used.

(c) and (d) The price of set top boxes will be driven by market forces. Different business models are likely to emerge in the market in order to make the same available to the subscribers. Initially, the demand is likely to be met by imports till indigenous production capacity is installed. It is expected that prices would fall with increase in volumes.

(e) It will give the subscribers the choice to pay for only those pay channels they wish to watch.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. However, there has not been any reduction in duties.

Disability Pension

6689. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has quashed the Government order of stopping the disability pension of those ex-servicemen who did not meet disability criteria recently;

(b) if so, the details regarding observations of the court;

(c) the number of ex-servicemen are going to be benefited by this order;

(d) whether Government have also considered the fate of the Army Personnel who have been boarded out on account of disability, on or after January 1, 1982; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the amended rule do favour for the welfare of the ex-army (disabled) personnel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) There are 253 petitions in the judgement of 6th March, 2003 of the Delhi High Court.

(d) and (e) Ex-servicemen boarded out on account of disability are entitled to disability pension as per the relevant provisions of the Pension Regulations of the Army, Navy and Air Force and orders issued by the Government from time to time on the subject.

Statement

There are more than one judgments of the Delhi High Court in the matter of disability pension. However, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in its judgement dated 6th March, 2003 in Civil Writ 5166/2000 entitled "ex-Jasbir Singh Vs Union of India and others" have referred to sub-para 9 of para 199 at page 86 of the judgement dated 15th November, 2002 of the Division Bench of the Delhi High Court in Civil Writ 3868/1993 entitled ex-Signalman Shri Bhagwan Vs. Union of India and others and also the observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court

in Civil Appeal No. 164/1993 decided on 14th January, 1993 in ex-Sapper Mohinder Singh Vs. Union of India and observed as under:

"We make it clear, following ratio of judgement, as aforesaid, that respondents must grant pensions to such writ petitioners in whose favour the medical opinion in terms of AFMS Form-16 has been given and a certificate to that effect has been issued in terms of the said Form-16 as there is no reason why they should not be granted pension in terms thereof. In such cases where on the material available on the basis of the advice of the specialist, for the reasons to be recorded in writing, there are strong reasons for coming to a different conclusion than what has been recommended on AFMS Form 16 by the Competent Authority, the case of such pensioners shall be assessed by a Review Medical Board. In case the Review Medical Board also agrees with the opinion of the Medical Advisor attached to the office of CDA (Pension) in that case an opportunity shall be granted to the petitioner concerned to plead his case before the appellate authority for grant of pension."

[Translation]

Orphanges in Rajasthan

6690. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details and total number of orphanages in Rajasthan at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government are providing any financial assistance to the orphanges operating in the above State;

(c) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided to these orphanges and the amount actually utilized out of it during the last three years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Details of orphanges in States/UTs are not maintained centrally, as orphanges are licensed and supervised by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment does not provide any financial assistance to orphanages. However, the Ministry gives grant in aid to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and State run homes under the Scheme of Assistance to Homes (shishu grehs) for children to promote in-country adoption. Two shishu grehs have been given grant in aid in the State of Rajasthan under the said Scheme. The grant in aid is generally fully utilized during the same year, and the unspent balance, if any, is adjusted with the grant for the subsequent year. Details of the grant in aid provided to the NGOs in Rajasthan during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the Organisation	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Shri Kami Nagar Vikas Samiti, Kota	8.91	5.47	5.26
2.	Madhu Smriti Mahila and Bal Kalyan Uthan Sansthan, Rangbari, Kota	4.97	4.93	4.91

(d) Does not arise.

[English

Toilets/Washrooms not used in Stationary Trains

6691. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways will launch a awareness campaign to ensure that toilets and washrooms are not used by the passengers while the trains are stationary at railway stations in the country; and

(b) the details of this awareness campaign to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Action is taken from time to time to bring about awareness amongst the passengers not to use the train toilets when the trains are stationary at the Railway stations. Instructions are also prominently displayed in coaches advising passengers to avoid using toilets when trains are at the stations. Messages regarding this are also given through Public Address System, posters, banners etc.

Debt at Lower cost to PGCI

6692. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. plans to prepay high cost debt to the tune of Rs. 1,400 crores;

(b) if so, the details of this plan;

(c) whether debt at lower cost is available for Power Grid Corporation;

(d) if so, the extent to which the Power Grid Corporation save funds through such a strategy; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.2003, POWERGRID has outstanding loans from Government of India amounting to Rs. 1660 crore, which carry interest ranging from 12.25% to 17% per annum. POWERGRID intends to prepay these loans during the Financial Year 2003-04 through borrowings from the domestic market.

(c) to (e) POWERGRID expects to avail borrowings from the domestic market at an interest rate lower than that applicable to outstanding loans from the Government. POWERGRID have informed that based on the present market, saving is likely to be around 5% per annum over the residual life of the debt.

Service Centres of Maruti Udyog Limited

6693. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sales and service centers set up by MUL in the country during the last three years, location-wise;

(b) whether the Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) proposes to expand its dealer network in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, city-wise;

(d) whether MUL has any proposal to set up sales and service centres in each district of the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Government of India (GOI) is a minority shareholder in the company. According to Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL), during the last three years it has added over 300 cities to its sales and service network. The new sales and service centers have been set up across the country.

(b) to (e) The expansion of sales network is a continuous process. The selection of location is based on changing demand potential in various markets across the country.

[Translation]

Rail Line between Ranchi-Hazaribagh

6694. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of a rail line is going on between Ranchi and Hazaribagh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith present status thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed progress of the said work;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken on the conclusions of the review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Final location survey has been completed and work has been taken up in following phases:

Phase I: Koderma-Hazaribagh Town: Forestry clearance obtained for Koderma-Padma section and work is in progress on stretches where land has been made available. Forestry clearance of section between Padma-Hazaribagh under process.

Phase II: Hazaribagh-Barkakana: Work started from Hazaribagh end. Forestry clearance under process.

Phase III: Barkakana-Ranchi: Land acquisition is in progress.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The regular review meetings are conducted with Zonal Railway.

(e) The land acquisition and forestry clearance is being chased with State Government.

[English]

Privatisation of Power Sector

6695. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of reforms effected in power sector to attract private investments in power generation, transmission and distribution;

(b) the details of private investment proposals cleared by the Planning Commission and Central Electricity Authority (CEA) since the announcement of privatization policy and actual investments made over the said period, State-wise;

(c) the details of completed and ongoing power projects in private sector with estimated cost and their capacity and progress made so far, project-wise;

(d) the details of fresh proposals received by the Government, State-wise; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) has been one of the main hindrances in the progress of schemes involving private sector investments. The losses of the State power utilities (without subsidy) in 1992-93 stood at Rs. 4560 crores and have grown to Rs. 33177 crores in 2001-02. Power Sector reforms pose a difficult and complex challenge for the States who have exclusive responsibility for distribution which is the core issue in power reforms. In the Chief Minister's Conference taken by the Prime Minister in March, 2001, there was a consensus on the urgent need for achieving commercial viability in distribution. There was also recognition that significant investment in generation and transmission would flow only after reforms succeed in restoring financial viability.

The Ministry of Power has signed State-specific Memorandum of Understanding/Memorandum of Agreement on power sector reforms with 27 States. Under the new Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), the Central Government is providing financial assistance for specific projects in identified distribution circles aimed at bringing about a turn-around. This has been combined with the provision of a grant to the States linked to the actual reduction in losses.

The Electricity Bill, 2003, which has been passed by both Houses of the Parliament, envisages a liberal and competitive framework for development of the power sector.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission has no mandate to accord investment approval for private sector power projects. Since announcement of the policy in 1991 to encourage private sector investments in the power sector, 61 private power projects (including 52 thermal and 9 hydro) having an aggregate capacity of 30824.5 MW have been accorded techno-economic clearance (TEC) by the CEA. Figures regarding actual investment by private sector in the power sector are not maintained. However, the private power projects commissioned/under construction, that have been accorded TEC envisage a total investment of around DM 238.49 Million+US$ 4950.52 Million + Rs. 13,515.16 crores. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement. The remaining projects could be taken up for implementation by the project promoters after the requisite inputs/linkages are tied up and financial closure is achieved.

(d) and (e) At present, only one thermal scheme namely Surat Lignite Thermal Power Project (250 MW) of M/s. Gujarat Industries Power Company Limited (GIPCL) is under submission to the CEA for accord of TEC. The TEC meeting for this project was held on 18.3.2003. The letter conveying TEC could be issued only after sorting out of the pending issues which have been conveyed to GIPCL on 21.4.2003.

Statement

Private Power Projects Commissioned/Under Construction which have been Accorded TEC by CEA

S.No.	Name of the Project	CAP MW)	Cost (DEM Component in Million)	Cost (US $ Component in Million)	Cost (Rs. Component in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Projects Commissioned				
	Gujarat				
1.	Paguthan CCGT (M/s Gujarat PowerGen Energy Corp.), Gujarat	655	—	—	2298.14
2.	Hazira CCGT (M/s. Essar Power Ltd.), Gujarat	515	—	284.35	770.87
3.	Baroda CCGT (M/s GIPCL), Gujarat	167	—	—	368.22
4.	Surat Lignite TPP (M/s GIPCL), Gujarat	250	4.92	44.538	999.99
	Maharashtra				
5.	Dabhol CCGT (Ph-I) (Ms. Dabhol Power Co.), Maharashtra	740	—	2828.524	—
	Andhra Pradesh				
6.	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. GVK Industries), Andhra Pradesh	216.0	233.568	8.727	363.28
7.	Godavari CCGT (M/s. Spectrum Tech.), Andhra Pradesh	206.2	—	143.44	296.59
8.	Kondapally CCGT (M/s Kondapally Power Corp Ltd.), Andhra Pradesh	350	—	178.636	384.441
	Tamil Nadu				
9.	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Power Corp Pvt Ltd), Tamil Nadu.	200	—	125.65	354.213
10.	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s Samalpatti Power Co.,) T.N.	105.66	—	55.978	172.508
11.	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (M/s PPN Power Gen. Comp.), T.N.	330.5	—	206.549	429.80
12.	Neyveli Lignite TPP of M/s-CMS Electric Co., T.N.	250	—	261.59	501.1
13.	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s Madurai Power Corp. Pvt. Ltd.) T.N.	106	—	59.84	150.845
	Karnataka				
14.	Taorangallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel), Karnataka	260	—	106.87	725.16

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Himachal Pradesh				
15.	Malana HEP (Malana Power Company Ltd.) (H.P.), H.P.	86	—	—	341.911
	Jharkhand				
16.	Jojobera TPS (M/s Jamshedpur Power Co. Ltd.), Jharkhand	240	—	—	1025.11
	Projects Under Construction				
	Maharashtra				
##	Dabhol CCGT-Phase II (M/s Dabhol Power Company)	1444	—	—	—
	Madhya Pradesh				
17.	Maheshwar HEP (M/s Shree Maheshwar Hyd.	400	—	211.68	921.6648
18.	Baspa-II HEP **(M/s Jaiprakash Hydro Power Ltd)	300	—	—	949.23
	Andhra Pradesh				
19.	Ramagundam TPP (Karimnagar)	520	—	326.80	1228.52
	Uttaranchal				
20.	Vishnu Prayag HEP	400	—	107.35	1233.57
	Total A=	—	238.49	4950.52	13515.163

##Single TEC given by CEA for both phases of Dabhol project.

Rakes for Transportation of Fodder and Water in Gujarat

6696. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rakes/water tanker (rakes) requested by the Government of Gujarat for transportation of fodder and water to scarcity affected areas during the last four months;

(b) whether the Railways has allocated the rakes as per requirement of the Gujarat Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which the railways propose to fulfil the requirement of scarcity affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (e) Railway rakes are provided as per the indents registered with the Railways. During the last four months from January, 2003 to April, 2003, 116 rakes were loaded for transportation of fodder to Gujarat and 64 indents were pending at the end of April, 2003. Efforts have been made to provide more empty rakes for loading of fodder for Gujarat scarcity affected areas.

First indent for transportation of water for Gujarat was registered on 28th April, 2003 and from 28th April, 2003 to 30th April, 2003, 4 rakes of water have been loaded for Gujarat. Two dedicated rakes have been provided for transportation of water to fulfill the requirements of scarcity affected areas of Gujarat.

Decline in Passenger Traffic

6697. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passenger traffic in the season ticket segments in the suburban and non-suburban areas is declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the specific measures being taken to increase the passenger traffic on these segment;

(d) whether this would lead to increase in the expenditure of the Ministry; and

(e) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was decline in the season ticket segment due to a major reduction in the sale of low value monthly season tickets priced at Rs. 15/-.

(c) In order to increase the passenger traffic in the season ticket segment, the fares in this segment have not been increased in the financial year 2003-04.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation Centres for Persons with Spinal Injuries

6698. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up or propose to set up Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with injuries and orthopaedic disabilities;

(b) if so, the cities at which these centres have been set up or proposed to be set up, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up R.R.C. at Hyderabad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total money sanctioned and spent under the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and orthopaedic disabilities are approved to be set up at Mohali (Punjab), Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh), Cuttack (Orissa) and Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A total of Rs. 9.35 crores has been released for the RRCs so far.

CNG Stations on National Highways

6699. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Govt. is aware of the inconvenience being experienced by motorists due to non-availability of CNG on national highways;

(b) whether the Government have been considering setting up a chain of CNG stations along the National Highways to facilitate CNG motorists;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some State Governments have also shown interest in setting up of CNG stations along the NHs;

(e) if so, details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, CNG facilities would be gradually expanded in a phased manner to cover major cities. The National and State Highways falling under the distribution network may also be covered with CNG facilities.

(d) Government is not aware of any such proposal.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Grievances of Cable Operators/Viewers

6700. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cable operators have threatened to go on strike by stopping their relaying in metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the main grievances of the cable operators;

(c) whether the work of cable operators cross the main roads and through fares causing hinderances and frequent breakdowns and wires dangling all over in a chautic manner;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to put its foot down on the cable operators who are fleecing the consumers and set up a separate agency in collaboration with viewers specially to cater to the work of TV cables and also speedily introduce internet services through the cable network all over the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government is not aware of a strike threat by the cable operators in any metropolitan city as a protest against the policy on cable networks. The cable used by cable operator is mainly coaxial cable, which at times may cross main roads and thoroughfares.

(d) to (f) Taking into account the public dissatisfaction against arbitrary hike in subscription rates, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, has been amended with a view to enable consumers to choose and pay for the pay channels of their choice and to ensure that every subscriber receives at least a minimum number of free-to-air channels, at a reasonable cost. Government will regulate the price of basic service tier. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government has notified 15th January, 2003 as the date within six months from which, it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit/ retransmit programmes of every pay channel through an addressable system in the four metro cities, namely, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. Thereafter, a set top box will be required to view the pay channels, and not for free-to-air channels.

Crude Import from Sudan

6701. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil companies has tied up with Sudan for supply crude for its future requirements;

(b) if so, whether India-Sudan contract envisages India acquiring a big stake in Sudanese oilfields;

(c) if so, the Government is also exploring to acquire the share in Sudanese crude supplies to CNPC of China and Petronas of Singapore; and

(d) if so, the details of the contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), acquired 25% stake of Talisman Energy Inc., Canada in the Greater Nile Oil Project, Sudan investing US $ 720 million (Rs. 3,456 crore approx.) in the form of purchase price. OVL's share of 25% equity oil from this project, which currently produces around 13 million tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of crude oil, is about 3 MMTPA.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Satellite Telephone Facility in Railways

6702. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI CHINMAYANAD SWAMI:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Zonal and divisional headquarters of railways have been equipped with satellite phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the crew members of all trains have been provided with walkie-talkie to make contact with stations which have been provided with 25 W VHF on all important zones;

(d) whether these telecom safety aids are to be extended all over the railways;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All Zonal and Divisional Railway Headquarters, have been provided with one satellite phone each except South Central Railway Headquarter, its 3 Divisions and newly formed Zones & Divisions, procurement action for which has already been initiated.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Walkie-Talkie sets have been provided to Drivers & Guards of all trains. 25 W VHF sets have been provided on all Broad Gauge (BG) double line & multiple line sections. Provision of 25 W VHF sets on BG Single line, Meter Gauge (MG) Double & Single line and Mixed 2-line sections is under consideration.

Ministry of Railways have also issued directives for provision of one additional satellite telephone on each Zonal & Divisional Railway Headquarters of Indian Railways.

(f) Expenditure likely to be incurred for provision of 25 W VHF sets on BG Single line, MG Double & Single line & Mixed 2-line sections, not yet provided with these sets, will be approximately Rs. 900 lacs and that for additional satellite phones on Zonal & Divisional Railway Headquarters is approximately Rs. 65 lacs.

Proposals From Maharashtra

6703. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several proposals have been made by the Government of Maharashtra for widening of the existing lines, laying of new lines and doubling of the existing lines during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways on each of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of some of the proposals of new line (NL), gauge conversion (GC) and doubling (DL) received from the Government of Maharashtra in last three years and action taken by the Railways are as under:

(i) Projects where surveys have been conducted and it has not been found feasible to take up the work due to unremunerative nature of project and constraint of resources.

Sl.No.	Proposal	Km	Cost (Rs. In crores)
1.	Wardha-Pusad-Nanded N	260	460
2.	Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur DL	326	647
3.	Purna-Khandwa GC	625	1284
4.	Pune-Nasik NL	265	1044
5.	Dahanu-Nasik NL	168	821
6.	Konkan Railway connected to Kolhapur NL via Nadgaon	211	1273
7.	Manmad-Dhule NL via Malegaon	98	144

(ii) Surveys for the following Railway projects are in progress and further consideration of the projects would be possible once the survey reports become available.

1. Jalgaon-Udhna & Jalgaon-Surat Doubling.
2. Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad NL.
3. Manmad-Dhule-Shirpur-Indore NL.

(iii) The surveys for the following lines have not been taken up due to constraint of resources.

1. Rajura-Gadchiroli-Adilabad NL.
2. Achalpur-Yavatmal-Mutizapur GC.
3. Pandharpur-Lonand NL.

4. Guhagar-Lonand NL.
5. Bodhan-Digloor NL.
6. Pachora-Jamner GC.
7. Mudkhed-Kachiguda GC.
8. Jalna-Washim NL.
9. Shegaon-Jalna NL.
10. Bodhan-Bildi-Narsi-Mudkhed-Shirur-Tajband-Latur Road NL.
11. Loha-Kandhar-Mudkhed NL.
12. Dharmabad-Biloli-Digloor NL.
13. Nanded-Loha-Gangakhed NL.
14. Loha-Ahmedpur-Chakur-Latur Road NL.
15. Udgir-Bodhan-Digloor NL.

Requirement of Loco Wheels

6704. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirements of loco wheels in Indian Railways;

(b) the units which are supplying these loco wheels;

(c) whether the Railways import large number of loco wheels;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years, country-wise;

(e) whether the poor quality of wheels has caused several accidents; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to acquire high quality wheels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir. All wheels for conventional locos constituting almost 90% of annual requirement are indigenously procured from Durgapur Steel Plant (SAIL) and Rail Wheel Factory, Bangalore. Balance wheels are presently imported as their low requirement does not provide economies of scale for indigenisation. Concurrently, they are also being developed indigenously so as to become available as and when their requirements grow in future.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) However, periodical quality audit of manufacturing process of indigenous sources is being carried out by RDSO to ensure quality of wheels.

Statement

Details of Requirements, Source and Expenditure Incurred on Import of Loco Wheels During Last 3 Years are Given Below.

Year	Requirement (in Nos.)	Indigenous		Imports		
		Source	Quantity (Nos.)	Source/Country	Quantity (Nos.)	CIF Value in Indian Rupees
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2000-01	2784	DSP	16940	M/s Lucchini SPA, Lovere, Italy	42	0.19 crores
		RWF	0	M/s Vyksa Steel Works, Vyksa, Russia	2,647	4.72 crores
				M/s Nizhnedenprovsky Tube Rolling Plant, Ukraine	7,655	16.10 crores
Total:	27284		16940		10,344	21.01 crores

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2001-02	15189	DSP	13666	M/s Lucchini SPA, Lovere, Italy	284	0.39 crores
		RWF	750	M/s Nizhnedenprovsky Tube Rolling Plant, Ukraine	489	0.78 crores
Total:	15189		14416		773	1.17 crores
2002-2003	16585	DSP	13191	M/s Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., Osaka, Japan	492	1.21 crores
		RWF	1496	M/s Nizhnedenprovsky Tube Rolling Plant, Ukraine	104	0.16 crores
				M/s Bonatrans, A.S. Czech Republic	1302	3.28 crores
Total:	16585					

14687

[Translation]

Transmitters in U.P.

6705. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of High and Low Power Transmitters in Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government have accorded sanction to a scheme to install more High Power TV Transmitters in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and

(d) the details of time limit prescribed for each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) 16 High Power and 69 Low/ Very Low Power TV Transmitters are functioning in Uttar Pradesh. Locations are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Two High Power Transmitters at Faizabad and Bareilly (DD2) are presently under implementation in Uttar Pradesh. HPTs, Faizabad and Bareilly are expected to be commissioned during 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

Statement

High & Low/Very Low Power TV transmitters functioning in Uttar Pradesh.

High Power Transmitters

Agra

Allahabad

Bareilly

Gorakhpur

Kanpur

Lucknow

Mau

Varanasi

Banda

Lakhimpur (interim)

Allahabad (DD-2)

Agra (DD-2)

Gorakhpur (DD-2)

Varanasi (DD-2)

Lucknow (DD-2)

Kanpur (DD-2)

Low Power Transmitters

Akbarpur

Aligarh

Amroha

Athdama

Auraiya

Baharich

Ballia

Balrampur

Basti

Bidhuna

Chhibramau

Deoria

Durdhinagar

Etah

Etawah

Faizabad

Farrukhabad

Fatehpur

Ganj Dundwara

Gauriganj

Gonda

Hardoi

Jagdishpur

Jhansi

Karwi

Kasganj

Kosi

Lalganj (Rae Bareilly Distt.)

Lalitpur

Mahoba

Mahroni

Mainpuri

Mau Ranipur

Mohammadabad

Moradabad

Nanpara

Narora

Naugarh

Obra

Orai

Pilibhit

Puranpur

Rae Bareli

Rampur

Rath

Rudauli

Sambal

Shahjahanpur

Sikanderpur

Sitapur

Sultanpur

Talbehat

Thirwa

Aligarh (DD-2)

Azamgarh (DD-2)

Bareilly (DD-2)

Jhansi (DD-2)

Lalganj (DD-2) (Pratapgarh distt.)

Mathura (DD-2)

Mau (DD-2)

Moradabad (DD-2)

Rampur (DD-2)

Rasra (DD-2)

Shahjahanpur (DD-2)

Sultanpur (DD-2)

Very Low Power Transmitters

Khufia Nangal

Manikpur

Mankapur

Thakurdwara (DD-2)

[English]

Amendment in Juvenile Justice Act

6706. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 842 on 19th July, 2002 regarding Amendment in Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the case filed in the Delhi High Court by former Chairman of Juvenile Welfare Board, challenging certain provisions of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act, 2000) has since been decided;

(b) if so, the main features of the decision; and

(c) if not, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Delhi High Court has fixed the next date of hearing on 28.7.2003.

[Translation]

Medical Scheme for Ex-servicemen

6707. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started any medical scheme in April, 2003 for ex-servicemen and widows of the soldiers killed in action in Barmer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposed to start such medical scheme in other areas of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The Government have introduced an Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) w.e.f. 1.4.2003 for providing comprehensive medicare to all ex-servicemen in receipt of pension, including disability pension, and family pensioners, as also dependents to include wife/husband, legitimate children including son with permanent disability and wholly dependent parents on becoming member of ECHS. The scheme will cater for medicare to the Ex-servicemen (ESM) by establishing 104 augmented armed forces clinics at different Military Stations and 123 new Armed Forces Polyclinics at different non-military stations. These polyclinics are configured into type A, B, C and D polyclinics based on concentration of ESM population and facilities desired thereto. The infrastructure, medical facilities and manpower to be provided at each type of polyclinic to be established has already been laid down. Barmer is one such area where augmented armed forces clinics, within the existing military stations, has been established.

[English]

Defence Production by Private Sector

6708. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel has been appointed to study extent of private participation in Defence sector;

(b) if so, the details of members of this panel;

(c) whether there was a good response from the private sector in the defence deals;

(d) if so, the defence projects that have been provided to the private sector; and

(e) the extent to which it has been helpful?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) No panel has been appointed to study the extent of private sector participation in Defence sector. Licensed production of various Defence items in the private sector has been allowed by Government only recently and so far 8 Letters of Intent have been issued by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in consultation with the Ministry of Defence for the manufacture of various items covering inter-alia bullet proof vests/jackets, armoured and other combat vehicles, bridge laying systems, warship, submarines, weapon platforms, radars & sonar systems, weapon launchers, arms & ammunition, anti tank weapons, torpedoes, avionics and military aircraft, over the last 8 months. So far, none of the Letter of Intent holders has commenced production.

Assistance to Meritorious SC Students for Higher Studies

6709. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for sanction of assistance to the meritorious SC students to pursue their higher studies; and

(b) the details of schemes lunched at the national level to promote and assist such SC students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) A plan scheme for providing scholarship/financial assistance to Meritorious Scheduled Caste Students is being formulated in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Identification of Jobs for Persons with Disabilities

6710. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up an Expert Committee for identification of jobs for persons with disabilities in 1999;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee submitted its recommendations to the Government recently;

(c) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee on this subject;

(d) whether Government instructed all the States and central agencies to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit;

(e) if so, whether some State Government are not implementing the provisions of the persons with disabilities (equal opportunities protection of rights and full participation) Act, 1995 and the instructions issued by the Union Government after the recommendations of the Expert Committee;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken by Government to ensure properly implementation of all the provisions of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In pursuance to Section 32 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had constituted an Expert Committee to identify/review the posts in Group A, B, C and D to be reserved for the Persons with Disabilities in its Ministries/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings. The report of the Expert Committee has been accepted and fresh list of identified posts has been notified on 30.6.2001.

(d) The list notified in June, 2001 is applicable to Central Ministries/Departments and its Public Sector Undertakings. As per the provisions of Sector 32 of the Act, the States are required to identify suitable posts for persons with disabilities in their own establishments and public sector undertakings. However, the Ministry has been pursuing this matter with the States and has suggested to them that pending identification of jobs by their own Expert Committees, they could use the Central list for reference and selection of jobs that can be reserved for the persons with disabilities.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

(g) For ensuring implementation of provisions of the Act, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has issued instructions to all States/Union Territories and Central Ministries/Departments from time to time. The Central Coordination Committee and the implementation of the Act by the appropriate authorities.

[Translation]

Achievement in Social Sector in Jharkhand

6711. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements made in the Social Justice Sector in Jharkhand and other States during the last two year;

(b) the scheme-wise allocation of funds made separately to various States including Jharkhand for these Welfare schemes during the last two years;

(c) the details of utilization of these funds State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints against any NGO for misultilising the funds during the said period till date;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (c) State wise details of funds released utilised during the last two years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No State wise funds are allocated.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Doesn't arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Achievement in Social Justice Sector in Jharkhand and Other States During the Last Two Years

Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Released	2001-02 UC received for	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3551.51	2007.20	7216.48
2.	Assam	127.14	1453.00	512.76
3.	Bihar*	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	414.68	465.1	430.25
5.	Gujarat	1227.91	435.6	559.73
6.	Goa#	0.00	0.13	0.00
7.	Haryana	443.53	833.8	1098.19
8.	Himachal Pradesh	368.66	221.15	447.99
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	201.84	200.6	122.88
10.	Jharkhand	578.84	0.00	0
11.	Karnataka	2985.43	2396.03	2386.12
12.	Kerala$	533.44	0.00	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh$	1148.23	1737.76	2598.12
14.	Maharashtra**	3314.14	854.57	1077.1
15.	Manipur$	2.73	8.94	0
16.	Orissa	2480.19	223.25	1792.01
17.	Punjab	0.00	161.14	0.00
18.	Rajasthan	3005.41	2556.29	3422.9
19.	Sikkim	16.68	1.68	42.21
20.	Tamil Nadu	5020.32	3385.53	4500.71
21.	Tripura	83.45	32.45	176.91
22.	Uttar Pradesh	11816.86	10181.17	10173.64
23.	Uttaranchal	433.21	192.19	174.57
24.	West Bengal	7421.59	2333.36	6640.5
25.	Chandigarh	25.00	12.50	25.00
26.	Delhi	0.00	93.21	0.00
27.	Pondicherry	50.00	0.00	5.81

*Scheduled Castes Development Corporation**

S.No.	State/UT	2001-2002 Releases	2002-03 Releases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	498.50
2.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	503.70
3.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil
4.	Gujarat	48.79	Nil
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	25.60
6.	Karnataka	391.00	160.50
7.	Kerala	Nil	437.70
8.	Maharashtra	1191.47	Nil
9.	Rajasthan	118.74	Nil
10.	Sikkim	Nil	100.50
11.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	400.00
12.	Tripura	Nil	Nil
13.	Uttar Pradesh	350.00	314.60
14.	Uttaranchal	Nil	61.40
15.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil

*Funds are released after States report utilization of funds released in previous years.

National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of scavengers

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Released	2001-02 UC received for	2002-03 Relesed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	224.70	NA	2966.80
2.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	NA	239.96
3.	Jharkhand	0.00	NA	—
4.	Karnataka	695.17	65.35	888.37
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	473.47	—
6.	Maharashtra	0.00	128.48	—
7.	Orissa	0.00	84.6	—
8.	Punjab	0.00	8.68	—
9.	Rajasthan	0.00	59.85	—

Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Released	2001-02 UC received for	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6426.72	0.00	5804.52
2.	Assam	272.31	218.32	221.32
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	229.97	185.90	106.83
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00	2.70
6.	Gujarat	60.14	0.00	0.00
7.	Haryana	275.61	0.00	180.92
8.	Himachal Pradesh	21.84	0.00	0.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	85.36	0.00	19.99
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	266.64
11.	Karnataka	732.13	1806.13	984.47
12.	Kerala	938.16	0.00	674.44
13.	Madhya Pradesh	490.53	630.67	371.81
14.	Maharashtra	658.33	0.00	1696.66
15.	Manipur	48.15	64.16	71.28
16.	Meghalaya	5.47	5.46	6.90
17.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Punjab	239.90	0.00	60.00
19.	Rajasthan	470.13	0.00	400.67
20.	Tamil Nadu	1168.95	1566.02	1658.56
21.	Tripura	138.71	0.00	85.06
22.	Uttar Pradesh	2304.94	2027.81	1994.42
23.	Uttranchal	411.74	0.00	0.00
24.	West Bengal	911.06	0.00	677.37
25.	Daman & Diu	2.50	0.00	0.08
26.	Pondicherry	35.00	0.00	20.03

Note: Central assistance in a particular year is released based on the expenditure and coverage anticipated by the concerned States/UT for that year. Any unspent balance of funds or arrear due are adjusted while releasing central assistance for the year. To avoid abnormally high anticipated expenditure, ananlysis of trend of expenditure from previous years is also made while considering release of central assistance.

Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Released	2001-02 UC received	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57.94	66.88	252.60
2.	Assam	—	—	8.11
3.	Bihar	15.47	26.75	20.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	2.24	Nil	21.80
5.	Goa	0.72	0.36	0.02
6.	Gujarat	510.07	411.84	0.00
7.	Haryana	38.20	74.13	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	4.07	9.74
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	5.09
10.	Jharkhand	30.20	Nil	1.15

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Karnataka	3.36	2.95	11.45
12.	Kerala	Nil	1.58	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	70.15	120.79	62.62
14.	Maharashtra	154.41	235.23	0.00
15.	Orissa	4.00	7.34	2.07
16.	Punjab	Nil	25.31	0.00
17.	Rajasthan	59.69	77.45	38.83
18.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	0.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	49.72	106.11	61.50
20.	Tripura	3.08	2.44	2.30
21.	West Bengal	2.87	2.89	5.60
22.	Pondicherry	Nil	13.27	1.80
23.	Uttranchal	2.21	Nil	7.78

Note: Central assistance in a particular year is released based on the expenditure and coverage anticipated by the concerned States/UT for that year. Any unspent balance of funds or arrear due are adjusted while releasing central assistance for the year. To avoid abnormally high anticipated expenditure, analysis of trend of expenditure from previous years is also made while considering release of central assistance.

Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste boys

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Released	2001-02 UC received for	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	462.83
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	9.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	0	—	421.00
4.	Gujarat	0	—	77.00
5.	Haryana	2.00	NR	4.50
6.	Himachal Pradesh	60.13	NR	0.00
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	—	24.97
8.	Jharkhand	245.80	NR	0.00
9.	Karnataka	563.19	NR	274.31
10.	Kerala	4.00	NR	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	284.37	NR	344.67
12.	Maharashtra	0	—	65.75
13.	Orissa	21.12	NR	0.00
14.	Punjab	11.57	NR	0.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	182.59	NR	89.41
16.	Tripura	18.58	NR	0.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	155.64	NR	71.08
18.	West Bengal	0.00	—	4.48
	UTs			
1.	Chandigarh	50.18	NR	50.18

Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste girls

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Released	2001-02 UC received for	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	505.50
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	9.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	54.00
4.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	23.05
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	38.64
6.	Jharkhand	245.80	NR	0.00
7.	Karnataka	207.42	NR	651.84
8.	Kerala	45.5	NR	79.50
9.	Madhya Pradesh	665.74	NR	Nil
10.	Orissa	25	NR	Nil
11.	Tamil Nadu	43.5	NR	61.50
12.	Tripura	9.49	NR	Nil
13.	Uttar Pradesh	196.04	NR	36.91
14.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	40.06
15.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	35.42

Book Banks for Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2000-01 UC received for	2001-02 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	76.43
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	2.78
3.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	10.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	5.31
5.	Goa	Nil	1.34	0.00
6.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	8.47
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	5.99
8.	Karnataka	33.27	NR	115.63
9.	Kerala	40.00	NR	16.79
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	24.99
11.	Maharashtra	85.79	NR	0.00
12.	Punjab	Nil	NR	14.51
13.	Rajasthan	9.40	NR	—
14.	Tamil Nadu	13.38	NR	61.86
15.	Tripura	1.86	NR	1.18
16.	Uttar Pradesh	103.16	NR	87.85
17.	West Bengal	—	—	3.21
18.	Delhi	12.00	4.03	12.00

Upgradation of Merit

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Released	2001-02 UC received for	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37.80	NR	26.70
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil	13.80
4.	Chhattisgarh	9.23	NR	21.52
5.	Goa	1.43	NR	—
6.	Haryana	7.93	NR	7.65
9.	Karnataka	—	—	28.20
10.	Kerala	4.5	NR	3.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	73.50
12.	Orissa	—	—	36.60
14.	Rajasthan	8.24	NR	7.01
15.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	1.50
16.	Tripura	1.20	NR	3.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	30.87	NR	36.25
19.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	45.90

NR=Not received.

Coaching and Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Released	2001-02 UC received for	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	111.80
2.	Bihar	—	—	6.00
3.	Gujarat	—	—	5.45
4.	Haryana	2.19	2.19	24.68
5.	Kerala	20.86	NR	22.01
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	19.99
7.	Orissa	2.50	NR	—
8.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	7.76
9.	Tamil Nadu	11.15	NR	—
10.	Uttar Pradesh	2.61	NR	—
11.	West Bengal	2.68	NR	—
12.	Delhi	1.90	2.45	10.00

NR=Not received.

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes & the Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2000-01 UC received for	2001-02 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	165.01	NR	328.14
2.	Bihar	0.00	NR	65.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	88.27
4.	Gujarat	178.20	NR	226.62
5.	Haryana	13.78	13.76	27.28
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	Nil	4.72
7.	Jharkhand	—	—	105.97
8.	Karnataka	174.59	409.33	567.05
9.	Kerala	44.15	NR	73.15
10.	Madhya Pradesh	812.86	NR	435.98
11.	Maharastra	6.48	NR	772.52
12.	Orissa	0.97	1.62	0.81
13.	Punjab	33.10	NR	—
14.	Rajasthan	317.38	NR	19.28
15.	Sikkim	0.00	NR	1.90
16.	Tamil Nadu	502.48	NR	336.66
17.	Uttar Pradesh	700.00	785.07	886.64
18.	Uttaranchal	—	—	22.42
19.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	25.00	26.25	26.32
20.	Pondicherry	31.50	NR	29.23

Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Released	2001-02 UC received for	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	645.25
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	26.85
3.	Karnataka	278.15	278.15	—
4.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	606.00
5.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	240.00
6.	Tripura	110.04	0.00	171.23
7.	Uttar Pradesh	1222.21	0.00	—
8.	Uttaranchal	73.19	0.00	—
9.	West Bengal	—	—	184.75
10.	Sikkim	5.00	0.00	—
11.	Jharkhand	31.45	0.00	—
12.	J & K	20.00	0.00	—

Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2000-01 UC received for	2001-02 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	357.77	0.00	247.86
2.	Assam	32.77	0.00	8.39
3.	Bihar	500.00	0.00	—
4.	Himachal Pradesh	55.02	0.00	—
5.	J&K	42.00	0.00	14.32
6.	Jharkhand	191.88	0.00	214.08
7.	Karnataka	145.57	145.57	211.69
9.	Maharashtra	452.84	0.00	0.00
10.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	60.20
11.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	198.95
12.	Sikkim	0.22	0.00	5.29
13.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	352.81
14.	Tripura	63.31	0.00	254.03
15.	Uttar Pradesh	329.00	0.00	1016.14
16.	Uttaranchal	25.92	0.00	0.00
17.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	258.14

Hostels for OBC boys & girls

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Released	2001-02 UC received for	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	188.74	0.00	210.00
2.	Bihar	149.58	0.00	—
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	108.27
4.	Jharkhand	147.28	0.00	—
5.	Karnataka	216.99	149.6	263.77
6.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	50.00
7.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	—
8.	Orissa	—	—	120.04
9.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	—
10.	Sikkim	20.00	0.00	20.00
11.	Tamil Nadu	157.28	0.00	283.50
12.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	—
13.	Uttar Pradesh	265.13	0.00	195.47
14.	West Bengal	—	—	68.95

Scheme of Employment of Handicapped

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Releases	2002-03 Releases
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00
2.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00
3.	Haryana	0.00	0.00
4.	Karnataka	14.44	25.94
5.	Kerala	64.46	0.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00
7.	Mizoram	15.21	0.00
8.	Orissa	0.00	0.00
9.	Punjab	6.27	0.00
10.	Rajasthan	10.41	26.10
11.	Tamil Nadu	—	77.60
12.	Uttar Pradesh	29.05	14.10
13.	Chandigarh	5.72	4.35
14.	Delhi	6.03	0.00
15.	Pondicherry	1.97	0.00

National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02 Releases	2002-03 Releases
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	136.40	108.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	198.35	156.05
3.	Assam	260.30	203.90
4.	Bihar	322.25	251.75
5.	Chhattisgarh	207.00	156.05
6.	Goa	74.45	60.35
7.	Gujarat	198.35	156.05
8.	Haryana	136.40	108.20
9.	Himachal Pradesh	136.40	108.20
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	136.40	108.20
11.	Jharkhand	210.85	156.05
12.	Karnataka	198.35	156.05
13.	Kerala	136.40	108.20
14.	Madhya Pradesh	384.20	299.60
15.	Maharashtra	198.35	156.05
16.	Manipur	136.40	108.20
17.	Meghalaya	136.40	108.20
18.	Mizoram	74.45	60.35
19.	Nagaland	136.40	108.20

1	2	3	4
20.	Orissa	198.35	156.05
21.	Punjab	136.40	108.20
22.	Rajasthan	198.35	156.05
23.	Sikkim	74.45	60.35
24.	Tamil Nadu	198.35	156.05
25.	Tripura	74.45	60.35
26.	Uttar Pradesh	446.15	347.45
27.	Uttranchal	148.90	108.20
28.	West Bengal	136.40	108.20
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	74.45	60.35
30.	Chandigarh	74.45	60.35
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	74.45	60.35
32.	Daman & Diu	74.45	60.35
33.	Delhi	74.45	60.35
34.	Lakshdweep	74.45	60.35
35.	Pondicherry	74.45	60.35

Note: The Scheme of NPRPD is a State Sector Scheme. During Tenth Plan Period, the scheme has been transferred to States.

Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment

(Rs. in lakh)

		2001-02		2002-03
Sl.No.	States/UT	Released	UC received for	Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	78.76	NR	95.61
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	45.69
3.	Bihar	30.08	30.08	71.90
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	8.04
5.	Goa	4.04	NR	8.21
6.	Gujarat	47.50	NR	102.75
7.	Haryana	3.09	NR	116.83
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	Nil	15.60
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	10.69
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	28.60
11.	Karnataka	49.44	NR	123.02
12.	Kerala	25.28	22.19	155.98
13.	Madhya Pradesh	113.58	103.53	90.23
14.	Maharashtra	710.77	NR	370.11
15.	Manipur	0.00	NR	205.06
16.	Meghalaya	5.89	NR	17.83
17.	Mizoram	8.99	8.99	63.77
18.	Orissa	—	—	215.75
19.	Punjab	13.37	13.37	105.60
20.	Rajasthan	12.17	9.15	77.62
21.	Sikkim	1.70	1.70	1.20
22.	Tamil Nadu	190.51	NR	90.84
23.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	11.57
24.	Uttar Pradesh	64.95	NR	250.05
25.	Uttaranchal	—	—	30.10
26.	West Bengal	73.49	0.00	98.97
27.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	9.40
28.	Delhi	82.03	NR	78.16
29.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	4.95
	Total	1518.86	189.01	2545.06

[English]

B.R. Ambedkar Foundation

6712. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the state of affairs of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Foundation at present;

(b) the details of various corpus funds available with this foundation as on March 31, 2003, head-wise;

(c) the details of expenditure incurred during the last three financial year, year-wise; and

(d) the future plans and projects of the above foundation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Foundation has been entrusted with the responsibility of managing, administering and carrying the important and long term schemes and programmes identified by the Centenary Celebration Committee on Bharat Ratna. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Schemes/ programmes implemented by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) Details of various corpus funds available with this Foundation as on March 2003 are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) Details of expenditure incurred during the last three years, year-wise are given in the enclosed statement-III.

(d) (i) To complete and consolidate all on-going schemes.

(ii) To take up intensive awareness programme to spread the ideals of Dr. Ambedkar through a multi-media approach.

(iii) Take up such activities as to are in consonance with the objectives of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.

Statement-I

Schemes/programmes being implemented by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation

- Setting up of Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi.
- Setting up of Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library.
- Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections.
- Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change.
- Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in Universities/Institutions for carrying out research on the thoughts and ideology of Baba Saheb.
- Publication of Collected works of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Hindi and other Indian languages.
- Dr. Ambedkar National Merit Scholarship to meritorious Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students.
- Organising Lectures, Seminars symposia, conferences, workshop, exhibitions and fairs on the life and mission of Dr. Ambedkar.
- Celebration of Birth and Death Anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar on 14th April and 6th December respectively every year.
- Grant-in aid to voluntary organizations for celebrating Birth Anniversaries of Great Saints.
- Publication of monthly magazine of Samajik Nyaya Sandesh.

Statement II

The Corpus Funds available, interest accrued, interest amount utilised and balance as on 31.03.2003

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Project/Scheme	Amount of corpus released	Interest earned on corpus upto 31.3.03	Interest amount utilised during 20.02.03	Balance as on 31.3.03
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Dr. Ambedkar National Award	2.00	4.71	Nil	4.71
2.	Dr. Ambedkar International Award	2.50	2.68	0.18	2.50
3.	Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowships	8.00	11.59	Nil	11.59

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Dr. Ambedkar Chairs (Rs. 8 Crores earmarked from corups fund of Rs. 40 Cr. released on 01.0.9.1997)	10.00	5.56	0.59	4.97
5.	General Activities (not earmarked for any scheme/project)	32.00	23.57	0.52	23.05
6.	General activities (not earmarked for any scheme/project)	12.00	7.58	0.46	7.12
	Total	66.50	55.69	1.75	53.94
	Add Corpus Fund				66.50
	Grand Total				120.44

Statement III

The activity wise, year wise Expenditure.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Project/Scheme	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
A	**Corpus**			
1.	Dr. Ambedkar National Award	21.80	0.75	18.00
2.	Dr. Ambedkar International Award	16.70	—	—
3.	Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowship	—	-	—
4.	Dr. Ambedkar Chairs	59.11	54.75	59.00
5.	Gen. Activities	19.22	32.80	45.73
6.	Dr. Ambedkar Merit Scholarship	—	—	52.00
B	**Grant-in-Aid**			
1.	Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library	—	25.00	
2.	Dr. Ambedkar Memorial	—	834.00	—
3.	CWBA Publication	58.56	25.00	48.52
4.	Dr. Ambedkar Feature Film	—	20.00	—
5.	Gen. Activities	—	—	—
	Total	175.39	992.30	223.25

Presence of Indian Navy

6713. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy has confined itself to the coasts and did not show its presence in the area of strategic interest to Indian as reported in the 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi, dated March 15, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the average period for which Indian Navy is capable of operating far away from its coasts without having to dock for replenishment;

(d) whether the Government would assess the future role of the Indian Navy; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to initiate a change in operational philosophy of Indian Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The period for which Indian Navy can operate offshore, without having to dock for replenishment, would depend upon its operational requirement like distance from coast, size of ship etc. Upgradation/ Augmentation of Indiana Navy is a continuous process dictated primarily by the threat perceptions, prevailing external strategic/security environment and also the emerging technologies.

Sanitary Marts in States

6714. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States who have set up Sanitary Marts (Organizing scavengers into groups to undertake sanitation related functions of municipalities) during the last three years;

(b) the details of States who have not yet set up such Sanitary marts;

(c) whether any financial assistance have been given by the Central Government on the requests of States;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of States who have been given financial assistance by the Central Government yet they have failed to utilize such financial assistance; and

(e) the steps taken by the Central Government of speed up the process of setting up of sanitary Marts in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have set up Sanitary Marts during the last three years.

(b) and (d) A statement showing Central assistance released to various States for setting up Sanitary Marts during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 is annexed. The States of Assam, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal have not yet utilized even-though financial assistance sanctioned to them.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(e) The matter has been taken up with the State Governments from time to time for expeditious setting up of Sanitary Marts.

Statement

Central Assistance released to various States for setting up of Sanitary Marts

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Name of States	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.41	Nil	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil	3.72	Nil
3.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	15.00	Nil
4.	Gujarat	11.61	Nil	Nil
5.	Jharkhand	Nil	10.85	Nil
6.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	4.67
7.	Madhya Pradesh	8.83	Nil	Nil
8.	Maharashtra	Nil	15.81	Nil
9.	Rajasthan	16.62	Nil	Nil
10.	Tamilnadu	22.53	Nil	Nil
11.	Uttaranchal	Nil	10.00	Nil
	Total	70.00	55.38	4.67

Reservation in Jobs for OBC

6715. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is strictly following the reservation policy in providing jobs for the persons belonging to Other Backward Classes in the Government Departments and Autonomous Institutions as well as Attached offices, Research and Development Institutes and other PSU's coming under his Ministry in so far as the Gazetted jobs or Class I and Class II employments are concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof, institution-wise;

(c) the number of posts not filled so far and the reason for not filling up of some reserved posts (Class I and Class II in both Government Sector and Public Sector) designated for the persons belonging to OBC; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There are vacant posts reserved for OBCs only in the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, (IREDA), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the administrative control of this Ministry, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement. Immediate steps for filling up these vacant posts are being taken by IREDA in accordance with the rules of the PSU.

Statement

Vacant post reserved for Other Backward Classes category in IREDA

Sl.No.	Group	No. of Posts
1.	A	03
2.	B	02

The posts could not be filled up as no suitable candidate was found meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria. The process to fill up the vacant posts is being repeated.

Financial Crisis at Talcher in Orissa

6716. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the thermal power plant at Talcher in Orissa has faced with a serious financial crisis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by NTPC to resolve the crisis in that thermal power plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Talcher Thermal Power Station (460 MW) in Orissa was taken over by National Thermal Power Corporation from erstwhile Orissa State Electricity Board on 3rd June, 1995 and this station has not faced any financial crises since then.

(b) and (c) In view of above, do not arise.

Nahur Railway Station

6717. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a railway station in Nahur;

(b) if to, the present status thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the time schedule for completion of the construction work; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (e) The construction of a new station at Nahur between Bhandup & Mulund stations on Mumbai-Kalyan section has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 2.0 crore in the Works Programme, 2003-04. The sanction is, however, subject to provision of land by the State Government free of cost/at nominal charges. A formal proposal for acquisition of 1745 square metre of land and making it available to the Railway has been submitted to the State Government.

As the entire project is dependent upon the land to be made available by the State Government, specific details regarding likely expenditure, time schedule & timely completion of work can not be furnished presently.

Independent Observers for Accident Sites

6718. SHRI A. BHAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways will appoint independent observers to rush to accident sites to supervise and monitor and observe the assistance and relief being given by railways to accident victims;

(b) whether railways react very slowly to accident news;

(c) whether relief trains reach very late at accident site; and

(d) the details of steps proposed to be taken to improve the present system to avoid delay in reaching of relief trains at accident site on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Efforts are made on a continuous basis to improve the system and make it more efficient and effective. Some of the proposed measures are as follows:-

(i) Introduction of three coach high speed self-sufficient SPARTs (Self Propelled Accident Relief Train) for quicker initial response.

(ii) Rationalization of location of Accident Relief Train (ART) and Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMV).

(iii) Entering into MOU with State Govt. for mutual cooperation.

(iv) Institutionalizing standing arrangement with Armed Forces.

(v) Enhancing maximum permissible speeds of ART and ARMV.

(vi) Better communication facilities e.g. availability of satellite phones and mobile exchanges, etc.

(vii) Formation of Disaster Management Plan at various tiers.

(viii) Empowering field units to effectively tackle post disaster situation.

(ix) Full scale disaster management exercises.

[Translation]

Electrification and Gauge Conversion in Country

6719. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status in regard to electrification and gauge conversion in various States in the country;

(b) the length of rail lines in Kilometres electrified and converted into broad gauge lines in the country so far, separately, zonewise; and

(c) the length of rail lines in kilometres yet to be electrified and converted into broad gauge, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) At present work is going on for electrification of 1782 km and for gauge conversion of 7890 km in various States in the country. The works are in various stages of progress.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

(b) The length of rail lines in kms electrified and converted in Broad gauge lines in the country so far, separately, zonewise is as under:

Sl.No.	Zone/Railway	Route Kms electrified till 31.03.2003	Gauge Conversion done since 01.04.1992 to 31.03.03
1	2	3	4
1.	Central	2947	237
2.	Eastern	2451	0
3.	North Eastern	23	1196
4.	Northeast Frontier	0	829
5.	Northern	1652	1548
6.	South Central	1540	2044

1	2	3	4
7.	South Eastern	4314	290
8.	Southern	1505	2116
9.	Western	2024	1570
	Total	16456	9830

The zonewise position is in respect of 9 zones as existing on 01.04.2002 before creation of new zones.

(c) The Statewise balance route length of metre gauge (MG)/narrow gauge (NG) rail lines remaining as on 01.04.2003 is as under:

Sl.No.	State	Balance length of MG/NG sections as on 01.04.2003.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	588
2.	Assam & North Eastern Region	1429
3.	Bihar	1287
	Goa	4
4.	Gujarat	2855
5.	Haryana	236
	Himachal Pradesh	244
6.	Karnataka	626
7.	Kerala	114
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1369
9.	Maharashtra	1155
10.	Orissa	143
	Punjab	25
11.	Rajasthan	2606
12.	Tamil Nadu	1912
13.	Uttar Pradesh	1860
15.	West Bengal	795
	Total	17248

As far as electrification of rail lines is concerned, it is a need based exercise which is reviewed on continuous basis. Only those routes having rate of return of more than 14% and/or operationally required are taken up for electrification.

[English]

NGOs Working Under Ministry

6720. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
COL (RETD). SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) functioning under his Ministry;

(b) whether all of them are registered;

(c) if so, reasons therefor;

(d) the Government funds disbursed to each of these NGOs during the last three years;

(e) the mechanism being adopted to ensure proper utilisation of the funds by them;

(f) whether there is any supervision on the NGOs on receipt of foreign funds and also a strict watch is kept on their utilization;

(g) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(h) whether there is any report of monetary mis-management/diversion of funds by these NGOs; and

(i) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) 2709 Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) were assisted during 2002-03 by the Ministry.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Only registered NGO's are eligible for assistance.

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has released grant-in-aid assistance to NGOs in the last three years as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.	Items	Year		
		2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	No. of NGOs	1961	2665	2709
2.	Amount released	161.65	190.19	221.40

Details of NGO-wise release are available on the Ministry's website-www.socialjustice.nic.in.

(e) The utilization certificates are obtained to ensure proper utilization of the funds and also periodical inspection of the organisations is carried out through State Government as well as by Ministry's officers. If shortcomings are noticed during the course of inspection, the grantee organization is issued show cause notice. If the reply is not satisfactory, the grant-in-aid is stopped/ suspended and the concerned State Government/District Collector concerned is asked to seize the assets created out of Government assistance, dispose of the same, deposit the money thus collected with the Government and recover the balance amount as arrears of land revenue.

(f) and (g) The Ministry does not maintain this information.

(h) and (i) On receipt of adverse report regarding functioning of some NGOs, action has been taken by the Ministry to blacklist 54 organisations and recovery of grants has been sought through State Governments.

Demand of Wagons in Western Railways

6721. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the western railways is unable to meet the demand of wagons required for transportation of onion, lime stone, cement, salt etc. particularly in Saurashtra, Kutch region of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to meet the demand adequately in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Railways have been broadly able to meet the demand of traffic in the State of Gujarat. However, in certain cases, there has been some time gap between registration of indents and supply of rakes primarily due to movement problems of a particular region like North East.

Expenditure on Inventories

6722. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether expenditure on inventories is much more than the provision made in the year 2002-2003 by the Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take for efficient and effective inventory management;

(d) whether money has been diverted from some other head in order to meet the expenditure on inventories;

(e) if so, from which head it has been diverted and the names of projects which have been affected due to this; and

(f) if not, the source from which the expenditure was made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Well laid down systems exists on Indian Railways, which are meticulously followed to control, monitor and regulate the receipt and issues vis-a-vis budgetary provision to ensure efficient and effective inventory management.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Expenditure incurred was within the Budget provision.

Special Parcel Trains

6723. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has introduced Special Parcel Trains using the shadow path of Superfast Trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the routes on which these trains are running;

(c) the composition of the freight carried by these parcel trains;

(d) the number of Special Parcel trains proposed to be introduced during the current year; and

(e) the routes identified for running these special trains, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Railways have introduced Time Tabled Weekly Parcel Express trains. The details of Parcel Express trains run during 2002-2003 and their routes are given in the enclosed statement. The commodities carried by these trains include both perishable and non-perishable traffic.

(d) and (e) Railways are constantly assessing the requirement for running additional Parcel Express trains. Additional services will be introduced based on traffic demand and availability of resources.

Statement

S.No.	Parcel Express Trains introduced during 2002-2003	Route	Date of Introduction
1.	New Delhi-Guwahati-New Delhi Weekly Parcel Express train.	Kanpur, Allahabad, Mughalsarai, Patna, Malda, New Jalpaiguri, New Bongaigaon	14.07.2002
2.	New Delhi-Howrah-New Delhi Weekly Parcel Express train.	Kanpur, Allahabad, Mughalsarai, Gaya, Dhanbad, Asansol	02.08.2002
3.	New Delhi-Bangalore-New Delhi Weekly Parcel Express train.	Agra, Jhansi, Itarsi, Nagpur, Balarshah, Secunderabad, Dharmavaram.	23.08.2002
4.	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Guwahati-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Weekly Parcel Express train.	Igatpuri, Nasik, Bhusaval, Nagpur, Tatanagar, Howrah, Malda Town, New Jalpaiguri, New Bongaigaon.	08.10.2002
5.	Chennai-Guwahati-Chennai Weekly Parcel Express train.	Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Palasa, Khurda, Bhubaneswar, Bhadrak, Khagragpur, Howrah, Malda Town.	11.12.2002

T.V. Programmes Without Commercials Breaks

6724. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed rules to ensure that pay channels under the new law have to provide services without commercial breaks and have to decide about the source of their revenue;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the new rules; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enforce them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. The Government has amended the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to, inter alia, provide the transmission/re-transmission

of programmes of every pay channel through an addressable system.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CAS for T.V. Viewers

6725. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Conditional Access System for television viewers is to be introduced from July 14, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Government will insist for routing of pay channels through set top boxes in the CAS regime;

(c) whether the Government have decided on the maximum price band for the free-to-air TV channels;

(d) if so, whether number of cable operators have placed orders for the set-top-boxes;

(e) whether broadcasters are set to force postponement of CAS implementation because of likely decline in viewership; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government has notified 15th January, 2003 as the date within six months from which, it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit/re-transmit programmes of every pay channel through an addressable system in the four metro cities, namely, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. Thereafter a set top box will be required to view the pay channels and not for free-to-air channels. Government has decided the monthly subscription for basic service tier of free-to-air channels and this is to be notified shortly.

(d) Informal discussions with MSO's reveal that orders for Set-Top-Boxes are being placed.

(e) and (f) Government does not intend to postpone the date of CAS implementation.

Shortfall in Development Sources for Jan Shatabdi Rakes/Coaches

6726. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortfall in sources and equipments for development and production for Jan Shatabdi rakes/coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. All the 16 rakes of Jan Shatabdi, planned for production in 2002-03 at Integral Coach Factory, were turned out in time.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Electricity Traction Tariff

6727. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway has approached to the State Electricity Regulatory Commission for reduction in the high electric traction tariff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Electricity Boards are opposing the reduction in tariff rates;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the railways is considering to enter long term contract for purchase of power from independent power producers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Presently, Railway is purchasing traction power from 17 State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and 3 other power companies. State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) are functioning in 13 States except in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand & Kerala. Tariff revision proposals are submitted by SEBs/Distribution Companies to SERCs

for fixing the tariff for different types of consumers including Railways. After examining the proposals and representation/public hearing from different consumers on proposed tariff, SERCs finalize the tariff. During the last financial year, Railways have approached Electricity Regulatory Commissions of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal & Orissa.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All consumers including Railways plead for lowering tariff before SERCs, while SEBs/ Distribution Companies plead for acceptance of their tariff proposal.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Power Generation from NCES in U.P.

6728. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of power generated through non-conventional energy sources in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of various types of non-conventional energy projects started in the above State and the amount invested in each project; and

(c) the amount provided to the State as assistance to boost non-conventional energy sources during the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) It is estimated that about 258.50 million units of electricity was generated from non-conventional energy sources during 2002-03 in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) A total of 74.12 MW capacity from various non-conventional energy sources which include 21.50 MW from small hydro, 46.50 MW from biomass cogeneration, 2.80 MW from biomass gasifer, 0.32 MW from solar and 3.00 MW from energy from wastes have been installed as on 31.3.2003 in Uttar Pradesh. A total amount of Rs. 254.00 crore has been provided to Uttar Pradesh under various non-conventional energy projects including power generation projects as on 31.3.2003. A total financial assistance of Rs. 17.81 crore has been provided under these non-conventional energy projects for power generation to Uttar Pradesh during the last three years as on 31.3.2003.

[English]

Setting up of National Trust for Mentally Retarded Persons

6729. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'National Trust' set up for the welfare of persons with autism and other mental retardations sought donations and gifts from the public; and

(b) if so, the details of donations received and used annually since the establishment of this Trust?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Rs. 79,628/-received upto March 2003 has been credited to the fund of the National Trust to promote its objects.

Appointment to Electricity Regulatory Commissions

6730. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electricity Regulatory Commissions which were created to play a crucial role in addressing crisis in the power sector has not been successful because most of the States have not yet reconciled to the concept of ERCs;

(b) if so, whether there are delays in appointments, resistance to delegating full powers to the commissions;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the extent to which the Union Government have been able to implement the Electricity Regulatory Commission in all States;

(e) whether all the State Governments have been urged to implement this decision; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Constitution of State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) is optional under the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. Section 17 of the

Act provides that the State Government may constitute SERC, if it deems fit. The Act also gives discretion to the State Government in terms of assignment of functions to SERCs. While sub-section (1) of section 22 of the Act stipulates mandatory functions of SERCs, sub-section 2 of section 22 provides for optional functions, which may be conferred upon the SERCs by the State Government, if they so choose.

Twenty-one SERCs have been constituted/notified. Out of these seventeen are functional. Fifteen Commissions have already started issuing tariff orders.

Operationalisation of SERCs has been made a pre-condition for Central assistance under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP).

SCP Allocated to State Governments

6731. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of SCP allocated to various State Governments during the last three years;

(b) the amount of Welfare Fund released by the Ministry to various States during the same period; and

(c) the amount spent by the ONGC foundations in the protection of ancient monuments and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Neither the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas nor any Oil PSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry allocates any amount of SCP to any State Government. However, the Oil PSUs undertake various types of activities on their own for the socio-economic development of weaker sections of the society residing in the neighbourhood of their respective project-locations in different States.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) There is no such specific fund earmarked by ONGC for the protection of ancient monuments.

Transparency in Defence Deal

6732. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to bring transparency in defence deals after the revelation of facts in the film made by the Tehelka.com;

(b) whether the Government has prepared new policy to check the kickoffs in defence deals;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which the said new policy has been successful; and

(e) the number of defence deals in which this new policy has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Subsequent to the Kargil operations and prior to the revelation by Tehelka.com, Government had set in motion the efforts to make changes in the higher defence management including the procurement set up. A Defence Acquisition Council and a Defence Procurement Board, chaired by the Raksha Mantri and Defence Secretary respectively, with senior level representation of all Departments and Service Hqrs in the Ministry to oversee and give directions on defence procurements have been set up. An arrangement for mandatory and time bound scrutiny of all major procurement cases, worked out in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission & Comptroller & Auditor General is in place. The new Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) has come into force from 31st December 2002

(b) and (c) It is not the policy of the Government to encourage agents. The role of authorised Indian representatives/agents of foreign suppliers have however been defined and a system of registration laid down. The penal provisions to combat corruption in defence purchases remain unchanged.

(d) It is too early to assess the impact of the procurement procedures.

(e) All defence deals are now being dealt with in accordance with the DPP-2002.

Reservation Policy in Jobs

6733. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry is strictly following the reservation policy in providing jobs for the persons belonging to OBC in various Departments and

Autonomous institutions as well Attached officers, research and Development Institutes and other PSU's coming under his Ministry in as far as the Gazetted jobs or class I and Class II employments are concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of posts not filled so far and the reason for not filling up of some reserved posts (Class I and Class II in both Government sector and Public sector) designated for the persons belonging to OBC; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Group 'A' and Group 'B' (Gazetted) posts in the Ministry are filled up by selection/recruitment made by Department of Personnel & Training, which takes care of the reservation policies meant for OBCs and the Oil PSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry take care of the presidential directives on reservation policies for OBCs at the time of recruitment of the comparable posts in their respective organizations.

(c) and (d) A few backlogs for OBCs vacancies/posts are available in some of the oil PSUs and could not be filled up, as these companies are optimizing themselves to suit the changed economic scenario. However, the concerned oil PSUs are making all out efforts to fill up the backlog vacancies/posts, meant for OBCs at the earliest.

Reduction in Prices of Petroleum Products

6734. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to reduce the prices of LPG and Kerosene and other petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the date from which the price is being reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1.4.2002, the pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG which are subsidized products, has become market determined. The oil companies are now fixing the prices of the petroleum products after taking into consideration inter-alia the prevalent prices of petroleum products in the international oil market. Even for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, the changes in the consumer prices after providing for the flat rate of subsidy are to be made by the oil companies. The variation in future prices of petroleum products would inter-alia depend upon the variations in the international oil prices.

Functioning of Coupon Validating Machines

6735. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Railway has recently conducted survey in the year 2003 regarding functioning of Coupon Validating Machines;

(b) whether in the Western and Central Railway suburban stations, the commuters are compelled to stand in queue twice first to purchase coupon and then get it rubber stamped due to non-functioning of the machine;

(c) if so, the expenditure of installation and maintenance of these machines on Central Railway; and

(d) the measures being taken to help the commuters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some machines do intermittently fail due to some technical problems or due to insertion of foreign materials by urchins. On such occasions, passengers get the coupons manually stamped from the booking counters or ticket checking staff before commencing the journey for which they get priority.

(c) The cost of this machine is Rs. 29,651/-per machine and the total value of annual maintenance contract for the machines installed on Central Railway is Rs. 10,62,600/-.

(d) The following steps are being taken to improve the functioning of Coupon Validating Machines (CVMs):

(i) The working of CVMs is being monitored on day-to-day basis at various levels.

(ii) Concerned staff has been instructed to personally attend minor failures like paper jam, presence of foreign particles in the CVMs etc. and rectify them immediately.

(iii) In case of major faults, staff has been instructed to call the engineers on phone from the company to whom Annual Maintenance Contract has been awarded, to attend the machine immediately.

(iv) Notice boards have been displayed at the stations to educate the passengers regarding operation of CVMs.

Funds for SC/ST and Disabled Persons

6736. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds spent under various welfare schemes for the SCs/STs, disabled persons, old aged persons, widow/terrorist affected children, minorities and other weaker sections of society in various States including Rajasthan and Maharashtra during the last three years; and

(b) the details of families benefited in Rajasthan by implementing the welfare schemes for the above categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) A statement-I giving detail of amount spent under various welfare schemes dealt by this Ministry and schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the last three years is enclosed.

(b) The number of families benefited in Rajasthan under various welfare schemes from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3720.00	3551.51	7216.48
2.	Assam	1810.69	127.14	512.76
3.	Chhattisgarh	500.00	414.68	430.25
4.	Gujarat	1521.88	1227.91	559.73
5.	Goa	8.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Haryana	930.63	443.53	1098.19
7.	Himachal Pradesh	440.00	368.66	447.99
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	218.00	201.84	122.88
9.	Jharkhand	500.00	578.84	0.00
10.	Karnataka	2643.64	2985.43	2386.12
11.	Kerala$	1251.07	533.44	0.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh$	1720.00	1148.23	2598.12
13.	Maharashtra**	2722.00	3314.14	1077.10
14.	Manipur$	38.96	2.73	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Orissa	1884.00	2480.19	1792.01
16.	Punjab	1784.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Rajasthan	3738.96	3005.41	3422.9
18.	Sikkim	23.87	16.68	42.21
19.	Tamil Nadu	3558.00	5020.32	4500.71
20.	Tripura	476.48	83.45	176.91
21.	Uttar Pradesh	9398.00	11816.86	10173.64
22.	Uttaranchal	500.00	433.21	174.57
23.	West Bengal	5450.63	7421.59	6640.5
24.	Chandigarh	25.00	25.00	25.00
25.	Delhi	149.91	0.00	0.00
26.	Pondicherry	25.18	50.00	5.81

*Scheduled Castes Development Corporation**

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	792.65	0.00	498.50
2.	Chandigarh	38.43	0.00	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	503.70
4.	Gujarat	200.00	48.79	0.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	25.60
6.	Karnataka	727.39	391.00	160.50
7.	Kerala	33.60	0.00	437.70
8.	Maharashtra	487.98	1191.47	0.00
9.	Rajasthan	0.00	118.74	0.00
10.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	100.50
11.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	400.00
12.	Tripura	12.69	0.00	0.00
13.	Uttar Pradesh	300.00	350.00	314.60
14.	Uttaranchal	169.95	0.00	61.40

*Funds are released after States report utilization of funds released in previous years

National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	224.70	2966.80
2.	Assam	372.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	1500.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	239.96
5.	Jharkhand	10.85	0.00	0.00
6.	Karnataka	0.00	695.17	888.37
7.	Maharashtra	21.35	0.00	0.00
8.	Uttranchal	10.00	0.00	0.00

Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3099.56	6426.72	5804.52
2.	Assam	233.75	272.31	221.32
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	229.97	106.83
4.	Goa	0.00	0.00	2.70
5.	Gujarat	149.39	60.14	0.00
6.	Haryana	126.35	275.61	180.92
7.	Himachal Pradesh	21.23	21.84	0.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	85.36	19.99
9.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	266.64
10.	Karnataka	1111.61	732.13	984.47
11.	Kerala	301.90	938.16	674.44
12.	Madhya Pradesh	382.47	490.53	371.81
13.	Maharashtra	727.78	658.33	1696.66
14.	Manipur	43.71	48.15	71.28
15.	Meghalaya	4.17	5.47	6.90
16.	Orissa	196.98	0.00	0.00
17.	Punjab	0.00	239.90	60.00

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Rajasthan	411.36	470.13	400.67
19.	Tamil Nadu	1950.46	1168.95	1658.56
20.	Tripura	141.20	138.71	85.06
21.	Uttar Pradeh	1383.22	2304.94	1994.42
22.	Uttranchal	0.00	411.74	0.00
23.	West Bengal	1098.42	911.06	677.37
24.	Daman & Diu	1.68	2.50	0.08
25.	Pondicherry	30.00	35.00	20.03

Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63.90	57.94	252.60
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	8.11
3.	Bihar	20.00	15.47	20.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	2.24	21.80
5.	Goa	0.34	0.72	0.02
6.	Gujarat	459.25	510.07	0.00
7.	Haryana	0.00	38.20	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	22.05	0.00	9.74
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	5.09
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	30.20	1.15
11.	Karnataka	3.03	3.36	11.45
12.	Madhya Pradesh	153.45	70.15	62.62
13.	Maharashtra	160.96	154.41	0.00
14.	Rajasthan	107.51	59.69	38.83
15.	Tamilnadu	170.25	49.72	61.50

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Tripura	2.45	3.08	2.30
17.	West Bengal	0.00	2.87	5.60
18.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	1.80
19.	Uttranchal	0.00	2.21	7.78
	Total	1163.19	1000.33	510.39

Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste boys

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	462.83
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	9.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	421.00
4.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	77.00
5.	Haryana	0.00	2.00	4.50
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	60.13	0.00
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	24.97
8.	Jharkhand	0.00	245.80	0.00
9.	Karnataka	495.00	563.19	274.31
10.	Kerala	0.00	4.00	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	764.95	284.37	344.67
12.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	65.75
13.	Orissa	12.75	21.12	0.00
14.	Punjab	0.00	11.57	0.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	182.59	89.41
16.	Tripura	0.00	18.58	0.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	155.64	71.08
18.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	4.48
19.	Chandigarh	45.00	50.18	50.18

Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste girls

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	505.50
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	9.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	54.00
4.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	23.05
5.	Haryana	140.04	0.00	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	67.30	0.00	0.00
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	38.64
8.	Jharkhand	148.96	245.80	0.00
9.	Karnataka	0.00	207.42	651.84
10.	Kerala	0.00	45.5	79.50
11.	Madhya Pradesh	437.51	665.74	0.00
12.	Orissa	12.75	25	0.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	258.34	43.5	61.50
14.	Tripura	22.05	9.49	0.00
15.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	196.04	36.91
16.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	40.06
17.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	35.42

Book Banks for Scheduled Castes

(Rs in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	116.59	0.00	76.43
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	2.78
3.	Bihar	7.38	0.00	10.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	5.31
5.	Goa	0.59	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Haryana	3.27	0.00	8.47
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.45	0.00	5.99
9.	Karnataka	20.5	33.27	115.63
10.	Kerala	13.92	40.00	16.79
11.	Madhya Pradesh	12.79	0.00	24.99
12.	Maharashtra	27.03	85.79	0.00
13.	Mizoram	1.59	0.00	0.00
14.	Orissa	9.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Punjab	8.28	0.00	14.51
16.	Rajasthan	0.00	9.40	0.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	15.21	13.38	61.86
18.	Tripura	1.68	1.86	1.18
19.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	103.16	87.85
20.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	3.21
21.	Delhi	5.89	12.00	12.00
22.	Chandigarh	0.72	0.00	0.00

Upgradation of Merit

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	37.80	26.70
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	13.80
3.	Chhattisgarh	4.20	9.23	21.52
4.	Goa	1.05	1.43	0.00
5.	Haryana	8.70	7.93	7.65
6.	Jharkhand	5.25	0.00	0.00
7.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	28.20

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Kerala	0.00	4.50	3.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	16.80	0.00	73.50
10.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	36.60
11.	Rajasthan	0.00	8.24	7.01
12.	Sikkim	0.75	0.00	1.50
13.	Tripura	1.20	1.20	3.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	30.87	36.25
15.	Uttranchal	2.40	0.00	0.00
16.	West Bengal	6.01	0.00	45.90
17.	Pondicherry	0.50	0.00	0.00

Coaching and Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	111.80
2.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	6.00
3.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	5.45
4.	Haryana	0.00	2.19	24.68
5.	Kerala	8.69	20.86	22.01
6.	Madhya Pradesh	44.03	0.00	19.99
7.	Meghalaya	1.79	0.00	0.00
8.	Orissa	0.00	2.50	0.00
9.	Punjab	2.39	0.00	7.76
10.	Rajasthan	43.10	0.00	0.00
11.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	11.15	0.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	2.61	0.00
13.	West Bengal	0.00	2.68	0.00
14.	Delhi	2.95	1.90	10.00

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes & the Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	208.60	165.01	328.14
2.	Assam	2.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	34.03	0.00	65.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	88.27
5.	Gujarat	325.79	178.20	226.62
6.	Haryana	11.53	13.78	27.28
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4.89	0.00	4.72
8.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	105.97
9.	Karnataka	150.44	174.59	567.05
10.	Kerala	41.95	44.15	73.15
11.	Madhya Pradesh	977.24	812.86	435.98
12.	Maharashtra	190.44	6.48	772.52
13.	Orissa	0.58	0.97	0.81
14.	Punjab	18.39	33.10	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	150.00	317.38	19.28
16.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	1.90
17.	Tamil Nadu	89.08	502.48	336.66
18.	Uttar Pradesh	448.20	700.00	886.64
19.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	22.42
20.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	27.00	25.00	26.32
21.	Pondicherry	28.64	31.50	29.23

Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	645.25
2.	West Bengal	62.50	0.00	26.85

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Uttaranchal	425.71	278.15	0.00
4.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	606.00
5.	Tripura	16.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	240.00
7.	Sikkim	95.79	110.04	171.23
8.	Manipur	0.00	1222.21	0.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	73.19	0.00
10.	Karnataka	0.00	0	184.75
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	5.00	0.00
12.	J & K	0.00	31.45	0.00
13.	Assam	0.00	20.00	0.00

Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	559.25	357.77	247.86
2.	Assam	94.47	32.77	8.39
3.	Bihar	0.00	500.00	0.00
4.	Goa	25.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	55.02	0.00
6.	J&K	8.00	42.00	14.32
7.	Jharkhand	0.00	191.88	214.08
8.	Karnataka	110.72	145.57	211.69
9.	Maharashtra	0.00	452.84	0.00
10.	Manipur	91.36	0.00	60.20
11.	Rajashtan	0.00	0.00	198.95
12.	Sikkim	0.00	0.22	5.29
13.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	352.81

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Tripura	0.00	63.31	254.03
15.	Uttar Pradesh	10.20	329.00	1016.14
16.	Uttaranchal	0.00	25.92	0.00
17.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	258.14

Hostels for OBC boys & girls

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	188.74	210.00
2.	Bihar	0.00	149.58	0.00
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	108.27
4.	Jharkhand	0.00	147.28	0.00
5.	Karnataka	183.23	216.99	263.77
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	50.00
7.	Manipur	46.91	0.00	0.00
8.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	120.04
9.	Sikkim	0.00	20.00	20.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	259.86	157.28	283.50
11.	Tripura	10.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	265.13	195.47
13.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	68.95

Scheme of Employment of Handicapped

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.17	0.00	0.00
2.	Gujarat	14.25	0.00	0.00
3.	Haryana	0.52	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Karnataka	0.00	14.44	25.94
5.	Kerala	0.00	64.46	0.00
6.	Mizoram	0.00	15.21	0.00
7.	Punjab	6.46	6.27	0.00
8.	Rajasthan	39.26	10.41	26.10
9.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	77.60
10.	Uttar Pradesh	17.63	29.05	14.10
11.	Chandigarh	4.56	5.72	4.35
12.	Delhi	0.00	6.03	0.00
13.	Pondicherry	8.71	1.97	0.00

National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	136.40	108.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	198.35	156.05
3.	Assam	260.30	203.90
4.	Bihar	322.25	251.75
5.	Chhattisgarh	207.00	156.05
6.	Goa	74.45	60.35
7.	Gujarat	198.35	156.05
8.	Haryana	136.40	108.20
9.	Himachal Pradesh	136.40	108.20
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	136.40	108.20
11.	Jharkhand	210.85	156.05
12.	Karnataka	198.35	156.05
13.	Kerala	136.40	108.20
14.	Madhya Pradesh	384.20	299.60
15.	Maharashtra	198.35	156.05

1	2	3	4
16.	Manipur	136.40	108.20
17.	Meghalaya	136.40	108.20
18.	Mizoram	74.45	60.35
19.	Nagaland	136.40	108.20
20.	Orissa	198.35	156.05
21.	Punjab	136.40	108.20
22.	Rajasthan	198.35	156.05
23.	Sikkim	74.45	60.35
24.	Tamil Nadu	198.35	156.05
25.	Tripura	74.45	60.35
26.	Uttar Pradesh	446.15	347.45
27.	Uttaranchal	148.90	108.20
28.	West Bengal	136.40	108.20
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	74.45	60.35
30.	Chandigarh	74.45	60.35
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	74.45	60.35
32.	Daman & Diu	74.45	60.35
33.	Delhi	74.45	60.35
34.	Lakshdweep	74.45	60.35
35.	Pondicherry	74.45	60.35

Note: The Scheme of NPRPD is a State Sector Scheme. During Tenth Plan Period, the scheme has been transferred to States.

Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	78.76	95.61
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	45.69
3.	Bihar	0.00	30.08	71.90

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	8.04
5.	Goa	7.33	4.04	8.21
6.	Gujarat	35.98	47.50	102.75
7.	Haryana	25.06	3.09	116.83
8.	Himachal Pradesh	24.58	0.00	15.60
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	10.69
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	28.60
11.	Karnataka	87.00	49.44	123.02
12.	Kerala	21.30	25.28	155.98
13.	Madhya Pradesh	159.27	113.58	90.23
14.	Maharashtra	251.16	710.77	370.11
15.	Manipur	5.35	0.00	205.06
16.	Meghalaya	5.62	5.89	17.83
17.	Mizoram	4.26	8.99	63.77
18.	Nagaland	6.67	3.22	40.93
19.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	215.75
20.	Punjab	24.06	13.37	105.60
21.	Rajasthan	8.00	12.17	77.62
22.	Sikkim	1.70	1.70	1.20
23.	Tamil Nadu	118.21	190.51	90.84
24.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	11.57
25.	Uttar Pradesh	184.45	64.95	250.05
26.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	30.10
27.	West Bengal	80.00	73.49	98.97
28.	Chandigarh	3.10	0.00	9.40
29.	Delhi	0.00	82.03	78.16
30.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	4.95

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2182.94	2732.80	2732.80
2.	Assam	2443.50	3058.99	3058.99
3.	Bihar	1711.06	556.56	556.56
4.	Chhattisgarh	3695.36	4626.18	4626.18
5.	Gujarat	3139.98	3930.91	3930.91
6.	Himachal Pradesh	514.05	643.53	643.53
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	776.38	971.94	971.94
8.	Jharkhand	3422.62	5870.24	5870.24
9.	Karnataka	616.13	771.33	771.33
10.	Kerala	218.63	273.70	273.70
11.	Madhya Pradesh	6257.12	7833.22	7833.22
12.	Maharashtra	2974.57	3723.83	3723.83
13.	Manipur	608.65	761.96	761.96
14.	Orissa	5188.40	6495.30	6495.30
15.	Rajasthan	2915.24	3649.56	3649.56
16.	Sikkim	86.28	108.02	108.02
17.	Tamil Nadu	258.27	323.32	323.32
18.	Tripura	831.57	1041.03	1041.03
19.	Uttar Pradesh	41.83	32.10	32.10
20.	Uttranchal	58.02	92.91	92.91
21.	West Bengal	1759.40	2202.57	2202.57
22.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	233.90	230.85	200.85
23.	Daman & Diu	66.10	99.15	99.15

Grant under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	460.50	2715.35	2160.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	376.55	200.00	300.00
3.	Assam	443.40	845.56	1023.40
4.	Bihar	0.00	209.35	209.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	1530.62	2086.77	2689.50
6.	Gujarat	2250.00	3050.00	2250.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	99.50	78.00	80.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	190.50	502.94	318.00
9.	Jharkhand	1320.00	2208.51	2808.00
10.	Karnataka	420.00	1314.37	904.35
11.	Kerala	0.00	117.50	588.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2057.84	4346.06	4052.32
13.	Maharashtra	1603.50	2672.50	2925.00
14.	Manipur	650.00	230.00	424.55
15.	Meghalaya	477.00	0.00	555.00
16.	Mizoram	72.00	0.00	240.00
17.	Nagaland	950.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Orissa	2957.10	4104.91	3641.60
19.	Rajasthan	1700.00	2550.00	2224.48
20.	Sikkim	327.88	239.38	83.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	63.00	405.00	210.00
22.	Tripura	287.50	462.50	665.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	9.61	176.95	27.00
24.	Uttranchal	46.94	78.05	78.00
25.	West Bengal	835.50	1406.67	1543.00

Girls Hostels for ST

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	232.52	1.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	20.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	10.00	0.00
4.	Gujarat	0.00	10.29	0.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	96.04	0.00
6.	Jharkhand	0.00	197.37	0.00
7.	Karnataka	0.00	40.00	0.00
8.	Kerala	0.00	0.59	0.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	44.80	0.00	400.00
10.	Maharashtra	0.00	67.72	0.00
11.	Meghalaya	11.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Nagaland	32.50	0.00	32.50
13.	Orissa	8.50	25.00	0.00
14.	Tripura	20.00	10.00	0.00
15.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	13.75
16.	Delhi	117.00	0.00	0.00

Boys Hostels for STs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	10.00	38.00
3.	Gujarat	0.00	21.57	0.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	113.50	0.00
5.	Jharkhand	0.00	197.37	0.00
6.	Karnataka	75.00	135.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Kerala	0.00	22.05	0.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	462.00
9.	Maharashtra	0.00	217.19	0.00
10.	Meghalaya	13.75	0.00	0.00
11.	Nagalahd	32.50	0.00	32.50
12.	Orissa	12.75	30.00	0.00
13.	Tripura	0.00	40.00	0.00
14.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	13.75
15.	Delhi	116.70	50.00	0.00

Coaching & Allied

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	8.04
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	1.69
3.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	8.64
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.9
5.	Karnataka	0.00	2.15	1.76
6.	Orissa	0.00	2.49	4.82
7.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.20
8.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	5.48
9.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	8.79
10.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	2.79	0.00

Vocational Trading Centre

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	145.16	0.00
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	44.26

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	118.95
4.	Gujarat	0.00	86.27	29.79
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.18	10.07	47.72
6.	Karnataka	0.00	40.50	0.00
7.	Mizoram	28.89	18.00	36.00
8.	Orissa	64.61	0.00	64.15
9.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	2.40
10.	Tripura	54.00	0.00	54.00
11.	West Bengal	6.02	0.00	6.13

Ashram Schools

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	262.50	0.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	400.00	0.00
3.	Gujarat	0.00	157.30	0.00
4.	Karnataka	0.00	128.00	130.00
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	820.00
6.	Nagaland	0.00	14.46	0.00
7.	Tripura	0.00	50.00	0.00

Grain Banks

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.66	0.00	177.72
2.	Gujarat	100.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Kerala	10.16	0.00	0.00
4.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	80.78	712.16

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Maharashtra	0.00	83.18	0.00
6.	Orissa	184.96	100.00	0.00
7.	Tripura	18.88	18.03	0.00
8.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	28.93

Post Matric Scholarship

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1577.74	1915.10	774.88
2.	Assam	1000.00	0.00	1275.94
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	8.21
4.	Himachal Pradesh	18.27	20.27	0.00
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	18.27	39.03	6.50
6.	Karnataka	301.98	239.74	75.38
7.	Kerala	83.52	92.00	0.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	323.18	259.01
9.	Maharashtra	249.08	368.61	165.02
10.	Manipur	665.56	737.49	820.11
11.	Meghalaya	666.09	732.70	805.98
12.	Mizoram	281.65	249.00	379.98
13.	Nagaland	1231.94	509.82	697.19
14.	Orissa	113.83	0.00	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	0.00	111.00	131.95
16.	Sikkim	0.00	347.40	0.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	5.20	3.31	0.00
18.	Tripura	51.07	90.79	0.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	6.40	0.00
20.	Uttranchal	0.00	166.54	0.00
21.	West Bengal	64.06	73.63	0.00
22.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0.00	0.55	1.59
23.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	1.05

Book Bank

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	30.29	47.20
2.	Assam	0.00	1.99	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	8.21
4.	Gujarat	0.00	4.88	10.25
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	7.00
6.	Karnataka	0.00	23.94	20.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	30.14
8.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	5.02
9.	Rajasthan	0.00	6.00	5.20
10.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	2.06	2.64
11.	Tripura	0.00	2.88	1.49
12.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	2.85

Upgradation of Merit

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	12.6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	6.45
3.	Assam	0.00	8.85	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	21.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.15	0.00
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	2.10
7.	Kerala	0.00	0.75	0.00
8.	Madhay Pradesh	0.00	0.00	25.80
9.	Orissa	0.00	10.20	10.20
10.	Rajasthan	0.00	7.05	4.45
11.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.75
12.	Tripura	0.00	2.40	2.40
13.	West Bengal	0.00	4.50	6.30

Statement-II

Details of families benefitted in the State of Rajasthan

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Beneficiaries		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
	Scheduled Caste Development			
1.	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs	66724	62494	63071
2.	Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes	59721	62002	65110
3.	Pre Matric Scholarships to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations	3713	20184	21310
4.	Book Banks for Scheduled Caste students	Na	Na	3067
5.	Coaching & Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes	NA	3320	Na
6.	National Scheme for Liberation & Rehabilitation of scavengers	172	404	800
7.	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	NA	NA	NA
8.	Upgradation of Merit for SC/ST students	176	Na	87
9.	Assistance to VOs for Scheduled Castes	1380	1370	1140
	Other Backward Classes			
10.	Construction of Hostel for Other Backward Class boys and girls	175	Na	Na
11.	Assistance to VOs for Other Backward Classes	Na	Na	540
12.	Pre-Examination Coaching for OBCs	Na	Na	40
	Minorities			
13.	Pre-Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria	200	150	200
	Welfare of the Persons with Disabilities			
14.	Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities	NA	1384	2303
15.	Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances	3804	4577	5675
16.	Employment of the Handicapped			
	(a) Live Register	6293	6761*	**
	(b) Placement	75	88	**
17.	National Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with Disabilities	—	—	—
	Social Defence			
18.	Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment	337	337	337

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Scheme for Prohibition & Substance (Drug) Abuse Prevention	7578	5763	3933
20.	Scheme for welfare of Street Children	800	800	800
21.	Integrated Programme for Older Person	250	Na	150
22.	Construction of Old Age Homes	—	—	—
23.	Assistance to Homes for Infant and Young Children for Promoting in-country Adoption	63	73	58
	Ministry of Tribal Affairs			
1.	Point 11 (b) of the Twenty Point Programme	68673	74374	85256

*Compiled upto December, 2000 by Ministry of Labour.

**Awaiting information from Ministry of Labour.

NA=Not Available

Na=Not Applicable as no fund was released during the year.

Short Term Loan to PSUs

6737. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the one hand the Railways is short of funds to complete even their prioritised projects and on the other hand they are granting short term loans to PSUs out of the funds raised through I.R.F.C.;

(b) if so, whether it is cost effective for the Railways to do so; and

(c) if so, the reasons for granting these loans to the P.S.Us. under the Ministry of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Railways have not granted any short term loan to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) out of the funds raised through Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC). However, term loans have been given to Railway PSUs by IRFC out of their resources, without in any way affecting Railways' Plan funding.

(b) The loans given to PSUs by IRFC have been cost effective.

(c) The loans were granted to the PSUs at their request to meet immediate funding needs of Railway projects being executed by them.

Assistance to People of Minority Origin

6738. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has established the National Minorities Finance Development Corporation to assist people to minority origin;

(b) the extent to which this body been able to help minorities to improve their livelihood;

(c) the amount of loans given by this Corporation in 2002-2003;

(d) whether there are plans to extend the activities of this body; and

(e) the steps are proposed to assist the minority communities to enter the business sector and create their own opportunities during 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMFDC) was set up by Government of India in September 1994, as an apex body to promote economic development of backward sections of minorities comprising of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists & Parsis.

(b) Since inception, NMFDC has so far assisted 1,78,398 individuals belonging to minorities to take up self-employment with a total disbursement of loans of Rs. 469.70 crore.

(c) In 2002-2003, loan of Rs. 73.93 crore have been given by the Corporation.

(d) Besides publicity and simplification of procedures, new schemes, namely, Educational Loan Scheme, Mahila Samridhi Yojana, Revolving Fund Scheme, Vocational Training Scheme and Marketing Support to artisans have been launched.

(e) During 2003-04, a sum of Rs. 109.00 crore has been earmarked for financing business activities in various fields.

Pay Channels Option to Viewers

6739. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government would consider making its channels as pay channels giving the option to viewers to stay out if not interested; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Government has no channels of its own. As far as Prasar Bharati is concerned, it is a statutory autonomous corporation and has autonomy in programme matters.

(b) Does not arise.

Implementation of Recommendations of Mandal Commission

6740. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the several State Governments have not implemented the recommendations of the Mandal Commission so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued directives to the State Governments for implementation of the recommendations of the said Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the Union Government have succeeded in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep have not implemented the recommendations of the Mandal Commission as there is no Backward Class population in these States/UTs.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Mandal Commission had been forwarded to the States/ UTs for taking appropriate action for their implementation. All the States/UTs except the above mentioned States/ UTs are implementing the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.

Loan Sanctioned by PFC

6741. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has agreed to sanction about Rs. 10,500 crore of loan for power sector 2003-04;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is more as compared to 2002-2003;

(c) the details of the target set for power and achievements made during 2002-2003;

(d) the details of the target of power set for 2003-2004;

(e) whether this loan provided is less to meet the target set for power during 2003-2004; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the Government of India for the year 2003-04, the target for Power Finance Corporation (PFC) for loan sanctions is Rs. 10,500 crores.

(b) The target set for 2003-04 is Rs. 3000 crores more than the target set for 2002-03.

(c) The achievement for capacity addition during 2002-03 was 2979.40 MW as against the target of 4109.10 MW during the corresponding period.

(d) and (e) The National target for capacity addition is 5200 MW for the financial year 2003-04. Loans from the Power Finance Corporation and one of the sources for financing of power projects. As far as the achievement of the capacity addition for 2003-04 is concerned, funds are already tied up from different sources including PFC.

(f) Question does not arise.

Scheme for Allotment of Petrol Pumps And LPG Agencies to Kashmir Martyrs

6742. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have scrapped the scheme to allot petrol pumps and LPG agencies to widows of Kashmir martyrs;

(b) if so, the schedule of this decision and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the widows and dependents were informed of this decision; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to inform all such applicant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) There is a Special Scheme for allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships to widows/next of kin of Defence personnel killed in action in 'Operation Vijay' in Kargil.

The Government has also earmarked a discretionary quota of dealerships/distributoriships for allotment on genuine compassionate grounds to deserving persons in the following categories:

(i) Dependants of Defence/Paramilitary/Police personnel, who are killed in action or persons permanently disabled while performing their duties and have not been suitably rehabilitated.

(ii) Dependants of Central/State Government employees, who are killed or permanently disabled while performing their duties and have not been suitably rehabilitated.

Dependants of the Kashmir martyrs are also eligible to be considered for allotment of dealerships/ distributorships under the discretionary quota.

Both the above schemes are still in operation.

Equity By NTPC

6743. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation propose to offer five percent of its equity in the primary market;

(b) if so, the details of the plan prepared by the NTPC in this regard; and

(c) the likely MW power to be generated by utilizing the proposed public money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) In order to meet the fund requirements for its capacity addition programme, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is contemplating a proposal to augment its share capital base by way of Initial Public Offering (IPO). The detailed proposal has not yet been made available to Government.

Petronet LNG Project

6744. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Petronet LNG promoters who make country's first LNG project struggling to find buyers for its gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith factors responsible;

(c) whether the Government propose to examine the inflation of the project cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The regassified LNG from Dahej project of Petronet LNG Ltd. will be sold by the three promoters cum offtakers i.e. IOCL, BPCL & GAIL. These companies are making efforts for marketing tie up of LNG with customers mainly to deficit consumers of natural gas and others who are presently using costlier fuels/feedstocks like Naphtha/Fo/LSHS/LPG due to non availability of natural gas. Offtakers, prospective consumers and LNG suppliers are negotiating various contractual & commercial terms for tying up of LNG.

(c) The Petronet project was awarded through an International competitive bidding process, where the EPC contract for construction of Dahej project was awarded at the most competitive price. The project construction is on schedule and there is no inflation of project costs.

(d) Does not arise.

Reservation in Jobs for OBC

6745. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is strictly following the reservation policy in providing jobs for the persons belonging to OBC in the Government Departments and Autonomous institutions as well attached offices, Research and Development Institutes and other PSU's coming under his Ministry in as far as the Gazetted jobs or class I and Class II employments are concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Institution-wise;

(c) the number of posts not filled so far and the reason for not filling up of some reserved posts (Class I and Class II in both Government sector and Public sector) designated for the persons belonging to OBC; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of House.

Procurement of Defence Item

6746. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that according to CAG's report even small item like Heliox Gas, Chappals, etc. were procured during 1999-2000 on single tender basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether those items still remain unutilised, as mentioned in CAG's report;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government would like to probe into such irregularities; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Selection of New Sites by IBP for Dealers

6747. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that IBP has selected the new sites and has selected the dealers without press advertisement;

(b) if so, whether the BPCL, HPCL and IOCL have also completed selection of sites and dealers after releasing the same in press;

(c) if so, whether the Government issued new directions only to make the system transparent or to help the private refineries having marketing rights;

(d) if so, whether these directions would be applicable in future cases and not on already completed cases;

(e) if not, whether the PSU's are still authorized to select the locations and dealers as per their own policy; and

(f) if not, the reasons for not permitting the PSU's also make their own policy to face competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) Consequent upon the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the selection

of dealers for retail outlets will now be made by the oil marketing companies themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them. Preliminary action like selection of suitable sites for setting up retail outlets has been initiated by the oil companies. The IBP Co. Limited has conducted some interviews for selection of dealers as per the policy drafted by them.

Performance of NTPC in Regard to Capacity Addition

6748. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of NTPC in regard to capacity addition programme during the Ninth Plan Period has been dismal and far from satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto giving the reasons for poor performance; and

(c) the measures taken to tone up the working of NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The capacity addition target for National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for the 9th Plan was 5300 MW. Against this, NTPC achieved a capacity addition of 2700 MW during 9th Plan.

(b) and (c) The primary reason for shortfall in capacity addition was on account of slippage of second stage expansion by 650 MW each of NTPC's gas based combined cycle power projects at Anta, Auraiya, Kawas and Gandhar. NTPC have now resorted to International Competitive Bidding for sourcing of LNG/Natural Gas/ regassifed LNG for existing/expansion gas projects. The setting of gas based projects is subject to availability of LNG/natural gas at reasonable firm price/terms and commitment from beneficiaries to purchase of power from the station.

NTPC have a capacity addition programme of 9160 MW of coal based thermal projects during 10th Plan period. Progress of projects is closely monitored and their implementation is as per schedule.

Non-Payment of Salaries of Employees in CCI

6749. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers and staff of Cement Corporation of India are not getting salary every month regularly since last eight months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to cut unnecessary expenditure in CCI by stopping unnecessary postings and transfers all over India and granting VRS to those who apply?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Officers and staff of 3 operating units of CCI viz. Rajban (HP), Bokajan (Assam) and Tandur (AP) and all Zonal Offices are being paid on regular basis from within the internal resources of the Company. For the balance 7 units of Cement Corporation of India, which are not in production, i.e. Mandhar (Chhattisgarh), Kurkunta (Karnataka), Nayagaon (MP), Akaltara (Chhattisgarh), Charkhi Dadri (Haryana), Adilabad (AP), Delhi Grinding Unit (Delhi) BGU, the Government have already released funds for payment of salary and wages upto June, 2002.

(b) The production in the 7 units has been stopped long back due to financial unviability, liquidity crunch etc. The Government have already given budgetary support of over Rs. 130 crores towards payment of salary and wages. Also Voluntary Retirement Scheme was launched in CCI.

(c) Only need-based transfers are taking place. Voluntary Retirement is being granted to all those who applied except for a very few employees whose services are essential for organisational needs.

T.V. to Motorists

6750. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has acquired the technical ability to provide T.V. to motorists;

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith the benefits of this service to motorists;

(c) whether DD is aware that motorists may watch TV while driving;

(d) whether Doordarshan has done any study of prevailing laws in other countries on TV in moving cars; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to study whether such facilities by Doordarshan will increase accidents on roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Four digital transmitters at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai set up by Doordarshan for experimental service have the capability of providing mobile reception.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Houses to Martyres

6751. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families of martyres or those participated in the Kargil war likely to be provided houses under the Vijayveer Housing Scheme; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority has formulated a Scheme earmarking 414 houses under 'Vijayee Veer Awas Yojana' for allotment to (i) the widows/ next of kin of the soldiers killed and (ii) soldiers permanently disabled, in Operation Vijay (Kargil) and other Operations occurring after 1.5.1999. 177 houses in respect of cases of OP Vijay (Kargil) and 139 houses concerning cases of other Operations have since been allotted under the scheme which is open till 30th September, 2003.

Protector of Human Rights at the International Level

6752. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the protector of human rights at the International level, Amnesty International has stated in its recent report that Indian women are sold in Pakistan;

(b) whether Pakistan has become the hub of smuggling acts and women are sold in fairs openly in the backward areas;

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check this social evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Private Sector Corporation in Operation of Trains

6753. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to rope in private sector cooperation in the operation of trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Education Programme from I.F.T.I.

6754. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a restructured educational programme has been started in the Indian Film and Television Institute, Pune;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of students passing out in each course every year; and

(d) the details of funds allocated to and spent by this institute during last three years and current financial year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The 1996 syllabus was restructured on the basis of the recommendations of the

Academic Council. The revised restructured syllabus was approved by the Governing Council in August, 1999 which has been put into practice from the academic year, 2000. The number of students passed out in each course since 1991 to 1999 is given in the enclosed statement. The students admitted in the year 2000 are in the third year of the Three Year Diploma Course and the students admitted in the year 2001 are in the second year of the Three Year Diploma Course. The final examination of Three year Diploma Course is yet to be held.

(d) The year-wise details of funds allocated and actual expenditure incurred by FTII are as under:

Financial Year	Funds Allocated (Rs. in lakhs)		Actual Expenditure Incurred (Rs. in lakhs)	
	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan
2000-01	533.20	196.32	561.41	365.00
2001-02	519.13	125.00	572.24	125.00
2002-03	451.67	30.00	564.63	30.00

The Sanctioned Budget Grant for the current financial year for FTII under Non-Plan and Plan is Rs. 503.27 lakhs and Rs. 358.00 lakhs respectively. Till now, no releases have been made to FTII during the current financial year The actual expenditure incurred by the FTII also includes the revenue portion earned by the Institution and the unspent balance during 2000-01.

Statement

Diploma Holders of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune.

Year of Passing	Film Direction	Motion Picture Photography	Sound Recording and Sound Engineering	Film Editing	Total
1991	6	4	2	6	18
1992	5	10	9	8	32
1993	8	8	8	10	34
1994	10	9	9	10	38
1995	10	8	8	9	35
1996	10	10	10	9	39
1997	10	10	7	10	47
1998	7	10	8	Course was not conducted	25

Year of Passing	Post Diploma in Direction	Motion Picture Photography	Audiography	Film Editing	Production Management (Film & TV)	Art Direction Film & TV)	Total
1999	4	10	4	11	6	8	43

Import/Export of LPG

6755. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether imported LPG is also exported to certain countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the loss/profit due to this import and export of LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has exported 270 MT of LPG to Bangladesh out of imports organised by its Joint Venture Company namely Indian Oil Petronas Pvt. Ltd.

(b) To tap LPG market in Bangladesh.

(c) The quantum of foreign exchange earned by IOC out of aforesaid quantity of exports is USD 84000 out of which the profit is about USD 4600.

[Translation]

Amount Allocated to Maharashtra for Handicapped Persons

6756. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government to Maharashtra and other States for the welfare of handicapped persons during the last three years;

(b) whether the above amount was fully utilized during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof, scheme-wise; and

(d) the number of the handicapped persons benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) No State-wise allocation is made. Details of amount released to States and utilized by them including Maharashtra during last three years under the scheme of Employment of Handicapped and National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) In Maharashtra, the number of persons benefited under programmes supported by Government of India for persons with disabilities in the last year was 1.57 lakh.

Statement

Scheme of Employment of Handicapped

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.17	0.00	0
2.	Gujarat	14.25	0.00	0
3.	Haryana	0.52	0.00	0
4.	Karnataka	0.00	14.44	25.94

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Kerala	0.00	64.46	0.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Mizoram	0.00	15.21	0.00
8.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Punjab	6.46	6.27	0.00
10.	Rajasthan	39.26	10.41	26.10
11.	Tamilnadu	0.00	0.00	77.60
12.	Uttar Pradesh	17.63	29.05	14.10
13.	Chandigarh	4.56	5.72	4.35
14.	Delhi	0.00	6.03	0.00
15.	Pondicherry	8.71	1.97	0.00

Note: State Governments are re-imbursed assistance as per norms of the scheme.

*National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities**

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No	States/UT	2000-01 Release UC recd. for		2001-02 Released UC recd. for	
1	2	3		4	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	136.40	136.40	108.20	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	198.35	—	156.05	—
3.	Assam	260.30	—	203.90	254.60
4.	Bihar	322.25	309.70	251.75	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	207.00	—	156.05	—
6.	Goa	74.45	—	60.35	20.42
7.	Gujarat	198.35	—	156.05	—
8.	Haryana	136.40	—	108.20	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	136.40	—	108.20	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	136.40	—	108.20	—
11.	Jharkhand	210.85	—	156.05	—
12.	Karnataka	198.35	22.20	156.05	44.11
13.	Kerala	136.40	—	108.20	—

1	2	3		4	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	384.20	—	299.60	—
15.	Maharashtra	198.35	198.40	156.05	—
16.	Manipur	136.40	—	108.20	—
17.	Meghalaya	136.40	—	108.20	—
18.	Mizoram	74.45	—	60.35	—
19.	Nagaland	136.40	—	108.20	122.00
20.	Orissa	198.35	—	156.05	—
21.	Punjab	136.40	—	108.20	—
22.	Rajasthan	198.35	—	156.05	—
23.	Sikkim	75.45	74.45	60.35	60.35
24.	Tamil Nadu	198.35	—	156.05	26.85
25.	Tripura	74.45	—	60.35	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	446.15	25.64	347.45	—
27.	Uttaranchal	148.90	—	108.20	—
28.	West Bengal	136.40	52.62	108.20	—
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	74.45	—	60.35	—
30.	Chandigarh	74.45	—	60.35	—
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	74.45	4.76	60.35	0.32
32.	Daman & Diu	74.45	0.91	60.35	1.75
33.	Delhi	74.45	—	60.35	—
34.	Lakshdweep	74.45	—	60.35	—
35.	Pondicherry	74.45	—	60.35	28.64

*Transferred to States from 2002-03

[English]

Irregularities in Navy Deal

6757. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether C&AG in one of its Report has found widespread irregularities in Navy deals and instances of uneconomic expenditure on spares, equipment and other stocks of sub-standard quality;

(b) if so, whether C&AG has advised Navy to identify high consumption use items and to procure them through open tender or rate contract only;

(c) whether C&AG has also found that instead of inviting open tender there was a pre-dominance of inviting single and limited tenders;

(d) whether there is any proposal to enquire into the same and bring to book the people responsible therefor; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the purchase of stocks and stationary stores as well?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Most of the cases pointed out by the

C&AG refer to the Logistics Delegation procurements between 1995 and 1997. Only 4 cases have been pointed out for the period reviewed out of lakhs of items procured. Hence these instances cannot be categorized as wide-spread.

(b) Naval Stores have strict specifications and cannot be acquired over the counter. Where it is possible to generate competition, Registered Suppliers with a reputation for quality are approached, or Open Tendering is resorted to. Commonly available items are procured through Rate Contracts concluded by DGS&D, NHQ and NHQ's Materials Organisations. Hence C&AG's recommendations are already under implementation.

(c) C&AG have pointed out Single Tendering but have done so by equating Proprietary Article Certificate (PAC) with Single Tendering. Almost 70% Navel Revenue Procurement is for spares and equipment, which are procured from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) on PAC basis. Particularly in the case of Ukraine and Russia, where monopolistic trade exists, such procurement is through their State Agencies, Ukrespetsexport and Rosoboron Export (ROE). Efforts to generate competition are made where there is availability with those few Russian firms who are permitted to deal with us directly. The position is similar in the case of procurement from Western Countries. It must be appreciated that specific equipment can be procured on either PAC or Limited Tender basis.

(d) As procurement is in conformity with approved procedure and C&AG guidelines, no individual was pointed out for punitive action either by C&AG or NHQ.

(e) The Defence Procurement Procedure of 1992 has been updated and the Ministry of Defence is strictly following Defence Procurement Procedure 2002. NHQ have put in place detailed procurement guidelines for procurement under Delegated Financial Powers.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Dhobi Samaj in SC List in MP

6758. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Dhobi Samaj' of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan has requested for their inclusion in the Scheduled Caste list;

(b) whether they have been included in the Scheduled Castes list in one or two districts of the said States;

(c) whether the State Governments have also recommended for the same to the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in doing the needful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A representation form Madhya Pradesh Dhobi Maha Sabha, Indore, has been received for inclusion of Dhobi community in the list of Scheduled Castes in whole of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Presently Dhobi community is listed as Scheduled Castes in Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore districts of Madhya Pradesh and in whole State of Rajasthan.

(c) A proposal recommended by Government of Madhy Pradesh, for inclusion of Dhobi community in the list of Scheduled Castes in whole of Madhya Pradesh has been received.

(d) The proposal of Government of Madhya Pradesh has been processed in accordance with approved modalities in consultation with the Registrar General of India. The State Government has been requested to provide additional ethnographic material in support of their proposal for inclusion of Dhobi community in the list of Scheduled Castes in whole of Madhya Pradesh.

Facility of High Power V.H.F. Mobile Sets

6759. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to provide the facility of the high power V.H.F. mobile sets in trains and at railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent on the high power V.H.F. mobile sets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Railways have already provided 5 Watt Mobile VHF sets to Drivers and Guards of all trains and 25 Watt VHF sets on all stations of Broad Gauge (BG) Double line & Multiple line sections. Extension of this facility on stations

of BG Single line, Meter Gauge (MG Double & Single line and Mixed 2-line sections is under consideration and is likely to cost approximately Rs. 900 lakh.

[English]

Anti-terrorists Operation

6760. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army Jawans killed and injured in anti-terrorist operations in Kashmir and other parts of the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether it is a very high figure of casuality for any army during peace time;

(c) if so, the specific reasons for such a high figure of casualty;

(d) whether there is a lack of desirable level of co-ordination among the armed forces and other intelligence agencies engaged in anti-terrorist operations;

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(f) whether the Government provides any special facilities to the dependents of such martyres;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (h) The number of army Jawans killed/injured due to terrorist action in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of the country during the last three years till 29th April, 2003 is given below:

Year	Killed	Injured
2000	352	783
2001	364	1014
2002	256	667
2003 (Upto 29.4.2003)	37	99
Total	1009	2563

Casualty figures for 2003, may be subject to reconciliation from record offices.

Casualties being incurred by the Army in combating Pakistan sponsored proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir is not considered as 'high', when seen in the context of the intensity of operations and the wherewithal provided by Pakistan to the terrorist groups operating there.

The military and other intelligence agencies engaged in anti-terrorist operations are working in close coordination. There is free flow of intelligence at field level as well as at higher levels. Regular interaction is taking place at various formal forums at the state level as well as at Multi Agency Centre at New Delhi.

A comprehensive welfare package for the armed forces personnel, which includes ex-gratia lump sum compensation in a graded scale, liberalized special family pension on the basis of last pay drawn by the deceased personnel, death gratuity and family gratuity as per specified rates as applicable and Insurance Cover as applicable, has been worked out and implemented for the next of kin of those killed in terrorist action. Payment of dues is a continuing process and all benefits as applicable to the next of kin of deceased personnel are being paid on the completion of necessary documentation and on meeting the legal requirements.

[Translation]

Telecast of DD-2 Programmes from Bundi

6761. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to start telecasting of programmes through Doordarshan Kendras in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any scheme to start telecast of DD-2 programmes from DD-1 Transmission Centre of Bundi in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that besides a full fledged Doordarshan Kendra

at Jaipur, there are 100 T.V. Relay Transmitters which are telecasting programmes in Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that the scheme for setting up of a HPT at Bundi for DD-2 service is presently under implementation. This project is expected to be completed during 2004.

Beating up to Innocent Rail Passengers

6762. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint against the G.R.P. personnel for beating up innocent daily rail passengers by the Special Ticket Examiner in connivance with G.R.P. personnel in the third week of December last year has been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government so far against the S.T.E. and the G.R.P. personnel found guilty;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Utilisation of Tyres and Tubes

6763. COL. (RETD). SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG has observed while carrying audit of Ordnance Factories that huge stock of 15,185 tyres and 6,669 tubes were lying unutilised due to failure to implement policy on usage of sand-cum-highway tyres by entire Task Force;

(b) if so, whether the life of 5,492 tyres and 6,669 tube valuing Rs. 166 crores had already expired;

(c) if so, whether the Government have ordered any Court of Enquiry or investigation to fix responsibility for non-implementation of policy decision and incorrect assessment of requirement resulting over provisioning of tyres and tubes;

(d) if so, the facts of the case/out come of investigation and persons held responsible for this loss; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to avoid such losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) In Para 23 (Case-II) of the C&AG Report No. 7 of 2002 (Defence Services), it has been stated that stocks of 15185 tyres and 6669 tubes were lying unutilised due to the failure to implement policy on usage of Sand-Cum-Highway tyres. These Sand-cum-Highway tyres had been procured for use on Jonga vehicles, since an operational necessity was felt to maintain the momentum of troops during training and operational moves in the desert and semi-desert terrains. Sand-cum-Highway tyres had been procured in addition to the normal cross country tyres as these were to be used only during training/operational moves. Keeping these reserves of Sand-cum-Highway tyres/tubes was an operational necessity.

(b) It has been stated in the Audit Para that shelf life of 5,492 tyres and 6,669 tubes had already expired. Expiry of shelf life of tyres/tubes is directly linked to the climatic conditions and storage conditions where these are stored. The said Sand-cum-Highway tyres were kept under ideal temperature/storage conditions thereby ensuring their full serviceability which was proved by their subsequent utilisation wherein full kilometerage was obtained and no defect reports were received. 100% tyres and tubes have already been utilised completely and satisfactorily. These tyres and tubes are also usable in case of the newly introduced Jeep M&M 550XD and, therefore, the necessity of keeping this reserve continues to exist.

(c) In view of the satisfactory utilisation of entire quantity of tyres and tubes, Court of Enquiry was not felt necessary.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Criteria For Selection of Programmes in DD Kolkata

6764. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether corruption and nepotism is being prevailed in Prasar Bharati in the matter of allocating time slots and extension of time in Kolkata Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details of number of daily programmes/ slots are being shown in Doordarshan Kendra Kolkata alongwith the criteria for selection of programmes;

(c) whether tender process is asked for all the slots/ allotted programmes produced by the outside producers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Charging of Commercial Rate of LPG Cylinders Supplied to Gurudwara

6765. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to charge commercial rate instead of domestic rate of LPG cylinders being supplied to Gurudwaras in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to review its decision and maintain status quo; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Government have reviewed its decision to supply LPG at commercial rate to certain categories of customers who were earlier being supplied subsidized LPG. These include charitable institutions registered under the Societies Act, which cover Gurudwaras also. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been advised to continue to supply subsidized LPG to these categories of customers.

Acid Attack on Women

6766. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shocking news of Acid Attack victims (Women) published in the National Daily 'Decan Herald' on March 30, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the State Commission for women is not at all aware of these Chastely attacks;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is no provision to provide any kind of compensation to women;

(e) whether a legislation to this effect will be made to protect the women; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Review of Schemes for Social Sector

6767. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the schemes for social sector;

(b) if so, the details of the reviewed schemes and the purpose of review the schemes;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action to check misappropriation of funds being done on these schemes for social sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have evaluated the schemes for development of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, welfare of persons with disabilities, children in need of care and protection, victims of alcoholism, drug addiction etc. A list of schemes evaluated is attached as statement. The purpose of evaluation of these schemes was to get feed back about implementation of the programmes effectively.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry releases funds to voluntary organizations under welfare schemes after receiving inspection reports of State Governments. In case any NGO is not working satisfactorily or if there is any misappropriation of funds, action has been initiated to recover the amount due from them. NGOs have also been blacklisted for misappropriation of funds. 71 NGOs were blacklisted in last three years.

Statement

List of evaluation studies sponsored by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during IX Plan

S.No.	Name of the Evaluation study
1	2
	Scheduled Castes Development
1.	Pre-Matric scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations.
2.	Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to SCs.
3.	Coaching & Allied for SCs & STs.
4.	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for the development of SCs.
5.	Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes.
6.	Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents.
7.	Evaluation of Scheduled Castes Development Corporation.
	Other Backward Classes
8.	Evaluation of National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation.
	Minorities
9.	Evaluation study of implementation of 15 point programme for welfare of minorities in three districts of Meerut, Mau and Muradabad of U.P.
10.	Evaluation Scheme of Pre-Examination and Coaching For Weaker Sections including Minorities and Other Backward Classes in U.P.
11.	Evaluation of the Activities Undertaken by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation.
12.	Evaluation of Impact of NMDFC Financial Assistance Schemes on Social Economic Development activities of targeted groups.
	Welfare of Persons with Disabilities
13.	Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities.
14.	Schemes of Assistance to Purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances.
	Social Defence
15.	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse.
16.	Evaluation of Adoption Programme.

Power Supply to Farmers

6768. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two-decades-old free power supply scheme for 17 lakh agricultural connections in Tamil Nadu has been scraped recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of small and marginal farmers affected as a result thereof; and

(d) the compensation proposed to be given to these farmers to reduce their burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In discharge of its statutory responsibilities which inter alia include the requirement of having the tariffs progressively reflect the cost of supply, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission in March, 2003 has introduced tariff for agriculture consumer at the rate of Rs. 250/horse power per annum for unmetered supply or 20 paise per unit for metered supply. A monthly minimum charges of Rs. 25 has been fixed for metered supply.

(c) and (d) There are 9.41 lakhs small and marginal farmers in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to provide Rs. 1000 per annum as cash support in two instalments to small and marginal farmers to ensure continuance of free electricity supply to them.

[Translation]

Serving of Poor Quality Food in UP and Bihar Bound Trains

6769. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for serving poor quality food stuff by the railway catering service in the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar bound trains such as Shramjivi Express. Lichavi Express, Shiv-Ganga Express and Sadabhavana Express and also the food stuff being served is less than the prescribed quantity; and

(b) the action taken by the Railways against the erring persons in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Meals are supplied on running trains as per prescribed menu and rates. During the last three years, two complaints regarding food have been received on Shramjivi Express and seven complaints have been received on Lichchivi Express wherein the licensee has been fined and warned. Shiv-Ganga Express is being managed by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on which no complaints have been received. Sadabhavana Express does not have pantry car services and catering on this train are managed through trainside vending. Time to time, Railways are taking various steps to improve services like purchase of standard ISI/FPO marked raw materials, frequent inspections etc.

[English]

Supply of Gas by British Petroleum to Power Plants

6770. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Petroleum has offered natural gas to power plants in India at an affordable cost i.e., $3.00 per MMBTU;

(b) if so, whether the British Gas propose to acquire its supplies from Iran;

(c) if so, whether the Government have considered the offer in view of the pending disputes between British Gas and ONGC/Reliance relating to Panna Mukta and Rava oilfields; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO USQ 3553 DATED DECEMBER 12, 2002 REGARDING PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS IN GUJARAT ALONGWITH STATEMENT SHOWING REASONS FOR DELAY*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (c) Targets of production of crude oil and natural gas by ONGC and private/JV operators for the year 2002-03 are as follows:

	ONGC (MOU) Target)	Private/JV (BE)	Total
Crude Oil (TMT)	6,126	36	6,162
Natural Gas (MMSCM)	2,463	933	3,396

BE : Budget Estimate.

MMSCM : Million Standard Cubic Metre.

MOU : Memorandum of Understanding.

TMT : Thousand Metric Tonne.

*Also Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-7715/2003.

In the reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3553 for 12.12.2002, the target of crude oil production in Gujarat State by Private/Joint Venture operators for the year 2002-03 was inadvertently indicated as 3,600 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) instead of 36 TMT. As the error was detected towards the fag end of the Winter Session of the Parliament and the House was adjourned on 20.12.2002, the corrected answer could not be laid on the Table of the House during that Session.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: I have to make a small announcement for the information of the Members. As the hon. Members are aware, we have heavy agenda listed for transaction today.

In order to cover the listed Calling Attention and pass at least the first two listed Bills, viz. (i) Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and (ii) Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003, I solicit cooperation of hon. Members and propose that the House may skip the Lunch Hour and curtail the "Zero Hour" to the minimum possible time.

The Short Duration Discussion on Disinvestment may start at 2.00 p.m. as listed.

I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not yet started the 'Zero Hour'. I will take up 'Zero Hour' for very little time today. You can speak at that time. Please take your seat now.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, I am seeking a clarification from you. I have raised a matter here two weeks back about police atrocities against myself and some of my colleagues in Kerala. We have given a notice of privilege motion on that. May I know what is the position on that?

MR. SPEAKER: The position is, we have asked for information from the State Government. As soon as it comes I will permit you to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the special court of Delhi has issued instruction that summon should be issued to Shri Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Shri Anil Ambani, the Managing Director, Reliance group as the charges of violation of Secrecy against them have proved under the law. Whether the Government have taken any step in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you permission after the reply.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAND ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions)-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Earth Movers Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 2003-2004.

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Dynamics Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. Lt 7683/2003]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, for the year 2001-2002.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7684/2003]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 2001-2002.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7685/2003]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Batote, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Batote, for the year 2001-2002.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7686/2003]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 438 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2003 containing Report of Justice G.N. Ray Commission of Inquiry set up to inquire into the Train Accident at Gaisal on 2nd August, 1999 together with Action Taken Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7687/2003]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Railways Act, 1989:—

(i) Notification No. 97/E & R/700/1/Notification (1) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2002 regarding constitution of a new Zonal Railway namely the North Western Railway out of the existing Northern and Western Railways with its headquarters at Jaipur, with effect from the 1st October, 2002.

(ii) Notification No. 97/E & R/700/1/Notification (2) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2002 regarding constitution of a new Zonal Railway namely the East Central Railway out of the existing Eastern and North Eastern Railways with its headquarters at Hajipur, with effect from the 1st October, 2002.

(iii) Notification No. 97/E & R/700/1/Notification (3) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2002 regarding constitution of five new Zonal Railways mentioned in the Notification, with effect from the 1st April, 2002.

(4) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7688/2003]

(5) A copy of the Notification No. 2002/ER/3400/16 published in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2002 declaring the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow, an "Attached Office" of the Ministry of Railways, to be a Zonal Railway with its headquarters at Lucknow, with effect from the 1st January, 2003 issued under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Railways Act, 1989.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7689/2003]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the

Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7690/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Press Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) correcting the reply given on the 6th March, 2003 to Unstarred Question No. 2441 by Sarvashri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav, P.R. Khunte and J.S. Brar, MPs regarding "Earning of Revenue through Advertisements on DD/AIR".

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7691/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions)—

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2003-2004.

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineers India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year-2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7692/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Power Finance Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7693/2003]

(2) A copy of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) (First Amendment) Regulation, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. L-8/1(1)/99-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2002 under section 56 of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act 1998.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7694/2003]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7695/2003]

(b)(i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(4) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7696/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:

NINTH LOK SABHA

(i) Statement No. LII Second Session, 1990

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7697/2003]

TENTH LOK SABHA

(ii) Statement No. XLVI Third Session, 1992

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7698/2003]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

(iii) Statement No. XXX Third Session, 1996

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7699/2003]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

(iv) Statement No. XXX Second Session, 1998

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7700/2003]

(v) Statement, No. XXIII Fourth Session, 1999

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7701/2003]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

(vi) Statement No. XXII Third Session, 2000

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7702/2003]

(vii) Statement No. XVIII Fourth Session, 2000

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7703/2003]

(viii) Statement No. XVI Fifth Session, 2000

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7704/2003]

(ix) Statement No. XV Sixth Session, 2001

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7705/2003]

(x) Statement No. XIII Seventh Session, 2001

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7706/2003]

(xi) Statement No. X Eighth Session, 2001

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7707/2003]

(xii) Statement No. VIII Ninth Session, 2002

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7708/2003]

(xiii) Statement No. V Tenth Session, 2002

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7709/2003]

(xiv) Statement No. III Eleventh Session, 2002

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7710/2003]

(xv) Statement No. II Twelfth Session, 2003

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7711/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7712/2003]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2003, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 25th April, 2003 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance Bill, 2003, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th April, 2003 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.03 1/2 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in their Thirtieth Report presented to the House on 7th May, 2003 have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members for the period mentioned against each:-

1.	Shri Ambareesh	17.02.2003 to 13.03.2003 07.04.2003 to 10.04.2003 and 21.04.2003 to 09.05.2003
2.	Shri Khagen Das	17.02.2003 to 07.03.2003
3.	Shri Vaiko	17.02.2003 to 13.03.2003 07.04.2003 to 10.04.2003 and 21.04.2003 to 09.05.2003
4.	Shrimati Ganti Vijaya Kumari	17.02.2003 to 13.03.2003
5.	Shri N.R.K. Reddy	17.02.2003 to 13.03.2003 07.04.2003 to 10.04.2003 and 21.04.2003 to 09.05.2003

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.04 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Forty Ninth and Fiftieth Reports

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2003-2004):—

[Dr. M.P. Jaiswal]

(1) Forty-Ninth Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in 6th Report of PAC (12th Lok Sabha) relating to "Infructuous expenditure of Rs. 29 crore—Communication Network".

(2) Fiftieth Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in 26th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Development of Tourism Infrastructure".

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Forty Second to Forty Fourth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals:—

(1) Forty-second Report on Merger and Acquisition of Oil and Gas Companies;

(2) Forty-third Report on the Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill, 2002; and

(3) Forty-fourth Report on Demand, Availability and Distribution of Fertilisers.

12.05 1/2 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Sixty First to Sixty Third Reports

[English]

SHRI PRADEEP RAWAT (Pune): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce:-

(1) 61st Report on Functioning of MMTC;

(2) 62nd Report on Functioning of STC; and

(3) 63rd Report on Textile Exports.

12.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

One Hundred and Eleventh to One Hundred and Twenty Sixth Reports

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Industry:-

(1) 111th Report on Operational Efficiency and Survival of Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Durgapur (Ministry of Steel);

(2) 112th Report on Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in Committee's 89th Report on Modernisation, Restructuring and Expansion Programmes of Durgapur Steel Plant (Ministry of Steel);

(3) 113th Report on Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in Committee's 88th Report on Performance Review of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (Ministry of Steel);

(4) 114th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the 83rd Report on MOU System in Allied Sector PSEs pertaining to the Department of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises);

(5) 115th Report on Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in the Committee's 81st Report on 'Sickness in SSI Sector of Cement Industry in Uttar Pradesh' (Ministry of Small Scale Industries);

(6) 116th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Committee's 82nd Report on MOU System in Strategic Sector PSEs pertaining to the Department of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises;

(7) 117th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) pertaining to the Ministry of Small Scale Industries;

(8) 118th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the 90th Report on 'Sickness in SSI Sector in the city of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh' (Ministry of Small Scale Industries);

(9) 119th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) pertaining to Department of Public Enterprises (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises);

(10) 120th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) pertaining to the Department of Heavy Industries (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises);

(11) 121st Report on Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in Committee's 100th Report on Performance Review of National Mineral Development Corporation (Ministry of Steel);

(12) 122nd Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) pertaining to the Ministry of Steel;

(13) 123rd Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) pertaining to the Ministry of Mines;

(14) 124th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) pertaining to the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries;

(15) 125th Report on Implementation Status of Modernisation Expansion and Financial-cum-Business Restructuring Programmes of SAIL at a Glance (Ministry of Steel); and

(16) 126th Report on Revival of Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises).

12.06 1/4 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, beg to present a petition signed by Shri Nabin Chandra Narayan Das and other residents of Dhenkanal, Orissa, against transfer of Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Dhenkanal to Utkal University, Bhubaneswar.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7713/2003]

12.06 1/2 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of frequent Crashes of MIG Fighter Aircraft in the country and steps taken by Government in regard thereto

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of frequent crashes of MIG fighter aircraft in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): I do not want to listen to the Minister of Defence. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow if anything fruitful is being discussed in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Members want that the Minister should reply. Please allow if anything fruitful is being discussed. What is problem with you in it? He is not the Member of your party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, you please make reply.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We boycott the reply of the Minister of Defence and walk out of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You may do so but those who want to listen to the reply will do so.

12.07 hrs.

(Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other Hon. Members then left the House.)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to make one submission to

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

you. Several times I have made submission regarding the statues displayed in one shop in Italy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That issue is not at present with me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else should go on record except the statement by the Defence Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You should understand that a fruitful statement is being made in the House. The Member belonging to the same party have asked a question and the hon'ble Minister is making reply. Let it go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Congress Party Member has put a question and a number of Members are present in the House. Let him make a statement. It is quite a valid subject.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)*: Sir, the Indian Air Force (IAF) categorises accidents as Cat-I, Cat-II and Cat-III. Cat-I accident is that where the aircraft is totally damaged and beyond economical repair. In Cat-II the damage is between 30-50 per cent and in Cat-III between 10-30 per cent.

The root cause for fighter aircraft accidents can be broadly classified as Human Error (HE), Technical Defect (TD), Bird Hit (BH) and other miscellaneous causes such as adverse weather conditions, difficulties associated with harsh terrain of operations and foreign object damage. About 38 per cent of Cat-I accidents are due to HE and 37 per cent due to TD. BH accounts for about 15 per cent of the accidents while the rest are due to miscellaneous factors.

HE comprises of error on the part of air crew on flying duty and/or ground personnel. Majority of HE accidents are caused due to error of skill, error of judgment, poor airmanship, non-compliance of instructions, lack of situational awareness etc.

Major Technical Defect factors responsible for aircraft accidents are rotor seizure, fatigue fracture, fuel contamination, over heating of turbine blades, hydraulic failure, engine failure, etc.

Indian Air Force has a number of squadrons of MiG variants, which are utilised in a variety of operational roles as well as for training. Every aircraft is certified fully airworthy before flight is undertaken. But, fighter flying, by its very nature, has certain inherent risks, which cannot be avoided altogether. Design aspects of MiG variants do not have a bearing on their crashes.

At present supersonic training is carried out on MiG-21 FL aircraft. The best possible training is given to IAF pilots and there has been no reduction in the standard of training.

Every effort is taken to reduce accidents and improve flight safety. This is an ongoing process. In this context, measures to enhance quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) at the highest level is being maintained with a view to reduce accidents due to Technical Defect. DRDO and other technical agencies are also being involved in all accident investigations to form a wider perspective to prevent accidents. Measures to reduce accidents on account of bird menace are also being implemented.

Although there is no direct relationship between lack of an Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) and aircraft accidents, Government have decided to induct AJT to ensure smooth transition of trainee pilots on to the frontline fighter squadrons equipped with high technology aircraft. Government have been considering various options for procurement of AJT and it is expected that a decision will soon be taken.

In order to bring down the number of fighter aircraft accidents, Government of India constituted a Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA). The Committee submitted its report in September, 1997. All recommendations of the Committee have been addressed and are under various stages of implementation.

Due to the constant efforts and measures taken by the Ministry of Defence the overall number of accidents have come down. The Ministry is also phasing out as well as upgrading old aircraft and inducting new ones into IAF's fleet.*

*.....*Also placed in Library. See No. LT 7714/2003.

MR. SPEAKER: Before the hon. Member starts speaking, I would like to thank the hon. Minister. On this issue I had also written a letter to him because of the number of accidents that have taken place. I am indeed thankful to the Government for the decision it has taken.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri J.S. Brar.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is one of the very grave situations for this country. With deep distress and regret, I have called the attention of the Minister.

I would just give points. I would not make a lengthy speech. I would like to make just five points.

Now, look at the alarming situation of MiG 23 major crashes, which are: April 6, 2003-Ambala; April 4, 2003-Halwara; July 5, 2001-Jodhpur; June 26, 2002-Halwara; March 12, 2001-Halwara; May 10, 2000-Halwara; April 25, 2000-Patiala; March 25, 2000-Kargil; February 2, 1999-Halwara; October 1, 1998-Halwara; October, 9, 1997-Halwara; May 8, 1997-Halwara; March 9, 1997-Halwara; June 5, 1996-Jodhpur; December 26, 1995-Adampur; March 20, 1993-Jodhpur; September 10, 1992-Adampur; April 3, 1993-Jodhpur; May 17, 1989-Ahmedabad; September 22, 1987-Una in Himachal; November 28, 1983-Tilpat Range; and December 26, 2002-Srinagar.

I want to highlight this matter because it concerns the people of my State. They have won the major awards as *Paramveer Chakra* and *Mahaveer Chakra* for the country. They have sacrificed their lives. They are martyrs. The first question that I would like to ask the Minister is that are you aware that Halwara is a place which is just two kilometres away from the native village of Shri Nirmaljit Singh Saikhon who had won *Paramveer Chakra* for this country, who destroyed four cyber jets at that time and his thousand pieces of his body came to the soil of this country. They have made these sacrifices.

My second point of contention is that from 1965 to 2002, the Indian Air Force has lost 135 MIG-20s, either due to clashes or due to bird hits or enemy fire or due to other reasons. If we calculate this menace, the total inventory has been written off once forever without fighting a war. The Indian Air Force had lost close to 200 fighter pilots in the accidents. Hon. Speaker, Sir, we had lost 200 fighter pilots. I would like to add one thing to this point. I have read the statement of the Minister. It was around 1985 that the Defence Committee later on had recommended that the IAF should acquire the Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT), and acquisition of 66 aircraft was sanctioned in 1986.

Today, the Minister in his reply to my Calling Attention has said like this. I was surprised and shocked to learn this. I had heard them roaring when they were in the Opposition Benches in the Tenth Lok Sabha. Like a sea, they used to roar. But now they are empty totally. They are not worried about the nation's security. In this statement, he says, which I have underlined, that measure to reduce accidents on account of bird menace is also being implemented. Then, the second paragraph says, 'the Government have been considering—since 1986 to till now, after so many accidents have taken place—various options for procurement of AJTs and it is expected that a decision will be taken soon.' Hon. Speaker, Sir, what is this answer?

As far as the cost factor is concerned, I would like to make one more point. While the cost of each aircraft, as the reports have come, is about Rs. 100 crore, the cost of the training of pilots is about Rs. 23-45 crore per pilot. This is in volume III, page 1921 of the Fifth Pay Commission Report. Thus, the loss of a pilot, apart from being a human life lost with all its tragic consequences, is a heavy cost to the exchequer. Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Defence Committee has said that in this period since 1st April 1993, India had incurred a loss of Rs. 10,000 crore on account of the cost of the aircraft lost and another Rs. 2,250 crore on account of the loss of the pilots. Hon. Minister, what is the cost of the new AJTs which you are going to acquire? Why is it delayed? Why is this deliberate delay on the part of the Government?

Hon Speaker, Sir, the next point that I would like to make is that there has been a report in the newspapers and I have got a cutting of the report. This report says that the certified quality spares imported from Russia were being re-exported by the HAL to Algeria and Vietnam while the Indian Air Force was being supplied with the cheap and uncertified spares picked from the former Warsaw Pact countries in Eastern Europe and CIS countries. Has the Minister any answer to this?

Hon. Speaker, Sir, there is one more revealing point. In some cases, the planes were a product of cannibalisation with the front portion being picked from one country, wings from another and, on the whole, the engine from another country. Three parts are being picked from different countries. I would like to know from the

[Shri J.S. Brar]
hon. Minister, how can we expect that these type of accidents and the loss of pilots will not take place in future.

I have got the report of the mother, Shrimati Gadgil of Versova. They have even set up a website. Four thousand mails have gone to that mother that these accidents have taken place due to the criminal negligence of this Government and due to corruption in this Department.

With your permission, I would like to make only two more points. This matter is of a grave importance and I know the outcome of all this also. We feel and the people of those families feel that these are the sons of sorrow, Mr. Minister, and you are the sons of joy; and between our sorrow and your joy, there is a deep ravine falling with tears and blood. What is the cause of this tears and blood? It is that after making at least 15 to 20 statements when you have been a Minister, there has been no purchase of new aircraft that you have ordered.

Now, I come to the last point I would like to make. My collegues have walked out. ...*(Interruptions)* I charge this Government of criminal negligence. This Government has become a frozen corpse. This Government has no regard to the martyrs and those who have won gallantry awards. I charge this Government of criminal negligence. They should immediately purchase new aircraft so that the Indian Air Force is equipped with this material.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Sir, I want to bring two facts to the notice of this hon. House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting a discussion. You can ask some questions, if you want.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: I am going to ask a question.

During the course of the America and Iraq war, the Americans lost only three aircraft during the whole war. During the same period, India lost two aircraft without going to war. ...*(Interruptions)*

Israel became independent in 1948; India became a sovereign State in 1947; Japan was totally devastated and Germany was totally devastated after the World War II. All those countries have healthy aeronautical industries and they are capable of producing fighter jets and warplanes. We talk of Indian nationalism. We are proud of Indian nationalism. I want to ask the hon. Minister what he has been doing or what the country has been doing since 1947 that we have not been able to produce any aircraft till now and why are we dependent on foreign countries for these aircraft.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): If there are countries in the world that have not been losing fighter planes, how are they managing that? How is it that they have been managing it whereas we are not able to do so?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question of national importance. I am sure, the hon. Minister would reply.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, first of all, let me make a point that no one could be more concerned about these accidents and the consequences thereof than the Ministry of Defence and the Air Force.

The tragedy that visits the homes of those whose sons die as pilots is shared by everyone in the country and also be the Ministry of Defence and the Air Force. We have been having these MiGs since 1971-72. In the very first year of their procurement, that is, in 1971-72, there were ten MiG 21 crashes; in the second year of their procurement, that is, in 1972-73, there were eight MiG 21 crashes; and in the third year, that is, 1973-74, there were 11 MiG 21 crashes. I can go on reading this list till 2003-04 in which year there was only one so far as MiG 21 crash is concerned. I am mentioning this to make the point that it is not this Government, this NDA Government, this Defence Minister who has to take responsibility for what is happening. There are a number of factors which have created this situation. In 1982, it was felt necessary to acquire an Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT). India never had an Advanced Jet Trainer. Let us face it that out Air Force is as old as this country and, as a nation, we have never had an Advanced Jet Trainer.

What is happening is that after the preliminary training or that amount of training that is necessary to handle an aircraft, the pilot goes straight into a Jet Aircraft—a MiG 21 Jet. Now, I have it on the words of not one but two immediate, past and the present Air Chiefs that the MiG is the demanding Aircraft.

The then Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal, A.Y. Tipnis, when he became the Chief of Air Staff, the first thing he did was to get into a one-seater MiG-21 and cover every Air Force base in the country. When I asked him 'why are you doing this', he said: 'to make the point

that the machine is not wrong, the machine is not that is failing, but the failure is somewhere else'. When he was due to retire and when he wanted to go to every Air Force Base to say bye-bye to his men and officers, he again did the same exercise only to demonstrate that the MiG-21 aircraft is not a flying coffin or any kind of a coffin.

Unfortunately, these things do not draw our attention. Unfortunately, anything positive is propaganda for the media and anything negative is news and it is the negative, therefore, that is constantly drummed into the ears of the people. Therefore, either we refuse to face the reality or we have been led into stations where we never get to know the reality.

Therefore, Sir, let us be very clear on this that this Aircraft has been the mainstay of our Air Force and it is still today the mainstay of our Air Force and will remain so far a few more years till we have acquired the latest, modern, very expensive aircraft, which are now coming in. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon. Minister, this loss is much more in respect of money and cost factor. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am sorry, I did not get you.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: As far as the cost factor is concerned, you say that this is very expensive and, for the time being, this is going to remain and your statement also is there that there is no technical snag in this MiG-23 and MiG-21. But the question is that the cost-factor till today, the losses that you ultimately account for are to the tune of Rs. 10,000 crore.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, this Government came into being five years back and from the first day onwards we have been on this AJT. There have been various reasons why it has taken time. Even as the Price Negotiating Committee completes its job, from various quarters come letters, come petitions, come newspaper stories that a lot is wrong about the purchase of the AJT; and Central Vigilance Commission has to examine it and the whole process has to be started once again. Even as we have been now negotiating and finalising the purchase of the aircraft, there have been newspaper advertisements, advertisements carried as news that there are more aircraft that need to be examined, that there are more aircraft that must be looked into.

Sir, examining an aircraft, putting it for tests and trials, negotiating the price—all this, in the normal course, would take anywhere from two to three years. Even today we are under pressure of such a nature.

Therefore, it is not that there has been any kind of inordinate delay insofar as this Government is concerned. It would be wrong to say that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Minister, are you aware of the memorandum submitted to the hon. Prime Minister by more than 150 M.Ps. regarding the delay in the acquisition of this AJT aircraft? Are you aware of it, hon. Minister? This is now one year back.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I am aware of my duties and I have been doing my duties. The Government is aware of its duties and the Government has been doing its duets. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Sir, I am sorry to say that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Minister, what-ever Shri Jagmit Singhji is telling is correct. Not one but alleast three years back 150 to 175 hon'ble Members had signed that we should purchase A.J.T. aircraft. Time and again you said that the press are against it. You are the Minister of Defence of the country. It is your responsibility to ensure the security of the country. You please proceed forward we are with you. Please give the befitting reply to the enemies. ...*(Interruptions)* You do not care for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: It is a question of the country, you please take it seriously. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): I would like especially to congratulate him that he has different view from his colleagues because whenever the Defence Minister came to discuss this issue, the same people were creating hinderence. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: We are accountable. ...*(Interruptions)* Our people have been killed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is functioning peacefully and the Congress people are boycotting it. How will it functing if those who are at the helm of the nation will demoralise those on the border. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji you are right.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: When the boycotting is gradually coming to an end they themselve want that he should be boycotted ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Please congratulate him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, a petition signed by 120 or 125 MPs was referred to. I was not the Minister of Defence at that time and it did not come in my hands. I am only aware that there was a petition.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: You were a member of the NDA at that time. You were the Convenor of the NDA.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The NDA is not running the Government. The Government is run by the Cabinet. There is a Cabinet here which is sitting. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Sir, if the petition is not given to the hon. Minister, he will not act on the petition. Is that what he means?

MR. SPEAKER: Inference is not true. Mr. Minister, you go ahead.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Thank you, Sir. a point was made about spares being exported by HAL and sub-standard spares being given to the Air Force. Sir, this is not true. HAL produces the spares for the Indian Air Force and what remains thereafter, or if there are special orders from any other source, HAL exports. HAL does not initially produce for exports. Whatever it produces is for the Indian Air Force. If there is surplus, that is exported and what is exported is the same that the Indian Air Force is first one to procure. That lie needs to be nailed.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir....

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brar, I have already given you enough opportunity.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Sir, to authenticate my viewpoint, I will lay paper on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: You can send the paper to the Minister.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: It is not a lie. It is a hard fact brought about by the defence experts and the media.

MR. SPEAKER: You go ahead. You need not heed to it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He spoke about corruption in the Department. I wish the hon. Member sends me whatever information that he has on the subject so that immediate action can be taken on that.

Sir, the name Halwara figures again and again. The MiG-21 base is in Halwara and therefore, it is inevitable that when a MiG-21 crashes, Halwara should figure in it. So, it is not that Halwara has been suffering.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: When Halwara was the main place of accident, what did the Government do? Was there any committee constituted? Did the Minister visit any family? Did he go to Halwara?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, it was against a large number of accidents that were taking place that a Committee was set up by the Government back in 1975. The Committee gave its Report in 1977. In 1996, it is that Committee's Report that has been implemented and continues to be implemented.

Now, the point is that we need to have the AJTs. I have said in my statement that we are on the threshold of procuring the AJTs. When I say that we are on the threshold of procuring the AJTs, it means that we are taking a decision in that direction. It will take a couple of years for the AJTs to come since these aircraft are not available off the shelf. Once the Government has decided and placed the order, it is then that these aircraft will be built and these aircraft will become available.

We have, as Government and as the Air Force, been doing everything that needs to be done to see that accidents are minimised, and the fact is that if one looks at the profile of the last three to four decades since these aircraft have been in service, one will discover that there has been a steady fall in the number of accidents

that have taken place. As Government, we shall be continuing to do all that is in the hands of the Government to see that the accident rate is reduced, that better training facilities are made available and that such equipment that may be needed for better training also is procured. It will be our endeavour to see that the situation as it prevails today is changed and there is no room for this kind of a complaint.

I do not wish to say anything more on this. I thank you for this opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, there is a contradiction in the statements given by the Minister and the Air Chief Marshal.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no provision in the rules to speak now.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, there is a contradiction in the statements.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am taking up 'Zero Hour' please. I now give the floor to Shri Khagen Das.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Though the Minister has replied however the approach of the Congress Party and the Communist Party is not positive.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Before taking up 'Zero Hour', there are two Bills to be introduced.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is very important subject and there cannot be any discussion on the Ministry of Defence. The Members belonging to his party have walked out so there was no discussion over the Ministry of Defence. There should not be such undemocratic and irresponsible behaviour.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): You do not take care of us, think about your party. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply of the Minister. Therefore, I am staging a walk out.

12.41 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri J.S. Brar left the House)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is serious matter. The hon'ble Prime Minister has appointed the Defence Minister. They say that they do not recognise him. Whenever there is question relating to the Ministry of Defence they stage walk out. It is very serious issue. You please see what is this. It is a responsible party. It is 114-115 year old political party. They should not behave like this.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Member who had raised this question is sitting before me. He asked question and the Minister has replied.

[English]

It is a good step and you must welcome it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): When the situation is getting normal and Shri Brar ji is sitting here then there should not be any problem. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are two Bills for introduction and I am going to take up that.

12.42 hrs.

ASSAM RIFLES BILL, 2003*

[English]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 8.5.03.

OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the governance of the Assam Rifles, an Armed Force of the Union for ensuring the security of the borders of India, to carry out counter insurgency operations in the specified areas and to act in aid of civil authorities for the maintenance of law and order and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the governance of the Assam Rifles, an Armed Force of the Union for ensuring the security of the borders of India, to carry out counter insurgency operations in the specified areas and to act in aid of civil authorities for the maintenance of law and order and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.45. hrs.

CONTEMPT OF COURTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: On behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj will introduce the Bill, which is listed as Item No. 20.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to move for leave to introduced a Bill further to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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*Published in the Gazzette of India. Extraordinary, Part-II, Sec. 2, dated 8.5.2003.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am taking up the Zero Hour. First of all I am giving opportunity to Mr. Khagen Das to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of breach of Privilege. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would first of all grant permission to him. Please sit down, you will also be given a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the Minister in the House in connection with your subject only.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you have to speak on your subject, we shall have to take up subjects one by one. Now only 15 minutes are left. No one's subject could be discussed here if you do not co-operate. You know that so many murders have taken place in Tripura and that is why I am giving them opportunity to speak first.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise one most important issue which is about the gruesome killing of 33 innocent people, injuring 23 people, including women and children, and the torching of a good number of houses by the banned extremist outfit on 6th and 7th May in four separate incidents in Tripura. The Government is well aware that two outlawed extremist groups, namely, the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All Tripura Tigers Force (ATTF) are very much active in Tripura, and they are indulging in barbarous killings, kidnapping, torching of houses, extortion of money etc. Their activities are hampering the developmental activities in the remote tribal-dominated areas of Tripura. They are in possession of sophisticated arms, including AK-47s and communication equipment.

Tripura has a porous international border of about 856 kilometres long with Bangladesh. Extremists have got about 51 bases or hideouts in Bangladesh. They are being aided and abetted by ISI and other such foreign agencies. The quantum of Central security forces deployed for counter-insurgency operations and manning the international border is inadequate. So, I urge upon the Government to immediately send to Tripura adequate number of security forces, including the Army, for conducting effective counter-insurgency operations. I request that adequate border security forces be deployed immediately for effective border management. Steps should be taken to dismantle the hideouts of extremists located in Bangladesh. Appropriate measures should be taken to fence the border in order to stop cross-border terrorism.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Member on this issue.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I associate Shri Baju Ban Riyan's name with this subject.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of Adjournment Motion and also for suspension of Question Hour. There are two aspects. The Government and the Home Minister should give statement in connection with the persons killed by terrorists. Second aspect of it relates to the problems of Scheduled Tribes. No one can say that any Bangladeshi Muslim has killed them. In fact the basic problem here is that mosquitoes cannot be killed by spray of DDT unless we have good maintenance of sewage system. This problem cannot be solved unless this august House and the Government do not think seriously on the problems of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and weaker sections. This is not the first incident that occurred there. Such incidents have been occurring there. The Ministry of Home Affairs should have given suo-moto statement with regard to the action being taken there in this regard.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Sir, I associate myself with Shri Paswan on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar's name is associated.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I associate myself with the incident in Tripura.

MR. SPEAKER: Its alright. I associate your name too.

[English]

Shri Arun Kumar, Shri Prabhunath Singh and Shri Raghunath Jha, these three Members have given notice on this issue. The names of these three Members are associated. Shrimati Renu Kumari's name is also associated.

12.47 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Need for Inquiry Into the Reported Missing of Government Documents and Files In Connivance with Govt. Officials and Officials of an Industrial House

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): A special court of Delhi has directed that summon should be issued to the Chairman of Reliance group, Shri Mukesh Ambani and Managing Director Shri Anil Ambani as they have secretly obtained Government document. They were recovered during the CBI raids. POTA law was enacted to apprehend such people only. Action should be taken against those who play with the safety and security of the country as also with the lives of people and they should be put behind the bars for well-being of the country.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, sir, this is a very serious issue and it came into light when the CBI conducted raid in the House of member of a mafia gang called Ramesh and seized such documents which were stolen from various ministries of the Union Government. These documents were then faxed to the Chairman and the then Managing Director of the Reliance group. These documents are so sensitive that such a leakage can pose a threat to the security of the country. CBI had appealed to the court that charges—*Prime facie*, can be framed against them. And therefore, summon may be issued to these persons. With regard to the Reliance group, I would like to say that it was said that if anyone raised his voice against this company of

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]
the country, he was eliminated. Be it the case of Kapil Mehra, or Nusli Vadia, or Ruiya, or even the Essar group. Serious allegations of disrupting the economy and usurping funds of the country and also stealing secret Government documents are provide against them.

CBI has approved a *prime facie* charge in this regard and also the court has given in writing its approval. Government conduct raids on petty issues and arrest people. Sir, you might be recollecting that yesterday matter of VSNL was being discussed in the House and Arun Shourie ji was also here and a lot of pandemonium occurred. At that time Ministers sitting in the front row kept quiet as the matter was related to the Reliance group. I request you to kindly give directions to arrest the Chairman, the Managing Director and the present Managing Director of Reliance group. This is posing a threat to the security of this country. Their activities are heading towards disrupting the economy of the country. This should be checked and directions should be issued to the Government to arrest them. This is my only request. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I associate myself with this issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow everyone to speak on this issue. We have just ten minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The Government should alteast take the notice of this. How can there be one rule for poor people and another for Reliance group. They should be tried for committing treason. This is a serious issue. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are two Cabinet Ministers present in the House. They can react.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs can react.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Speaker Sir, with regard to the matter raised by the hon. Member in the House, I would inform the hon. Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): In this august House, the then Minister of Home Affairs had accepted that Reliance group is associated with famous and influential persons. Hon. Home Minister may kindly give assurance in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, you have already been given a chance to speak. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a serious issue that is why the Minister has said that she would refer it to the concerned Minister and apprise him. Concerned Minister would take appropriate action on this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record except what Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar says.

*...(Interruptions)**

12.53. hrs.

Re: Implementation of the Interim Award of Cauvery River Water Tribunal

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are on the eve of yet another *kurvai* season in the Cauvery delta and it would appear from the meteorological reports that are coming in, that once again, the Cauvery delta—which has been the rice bowl of India for thousands of years—is going to be converted yet again into a desert owing to the complete failure of the Cauvery River Authority to ensure the implementation of the interim award of the Cauvery Tribunal.

*Not recorded.

Sir, for the last 12 years, the farmers of the Cauvery delta have been repeatedly cheated of their dues. It is not only a question of water. It is a question of justice. Sir, it is shocking that five years after the Cauvery River Authority was established with none less than the hon. Prime Minister as the Chairperson, not in one year, not in one month, not in one week and not even on one day has the interim award of the Cauvery Tribunal been respected. I think, it is the duty of the Prime Minister of India, especially as he is the Chairperson of the Cauvery River Authority, that he rises to his responsibilities, and before the crisis comes upon us—not as he has been doing year after year after the crises has come upon us- he should exercise his full responsibilities and ensure that as per the award of the Tribunal, waters reach Cauvery delta.

I demand an answer from the Prime Minister on this issue, and I trust that what I have submitted just now is the view of all the Tamil Nadu Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam.

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, we have also given notices to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to speak on the same issue?

DR. V. SAROJA: Yes, Sir, we have also given notices to speak on the same issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam, because she wants to speak on the same issue, let her speak. After her submission, you may raise your issue.

DR. V. SAROJA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party, AIADMK, on behalf of all the Members of my Party AIADMK, on behalf of the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and also on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I rise here to raise a very important issue.

I urge upon the Government to convene a meeting of the Cauvery Monitoring Committee and CRA to discuss the issue of 'distress sharing formula' and also to evolve a strategy of implementing the same in Tamil Nadu.

In this regard, on 21.4.2003, the Chief Secretary of the Government of Tamil Nadu had written a letter to the Union Water Resource Secretary to convene this meeting at the earliest date. All of us know that it is customary that every year, June 12th is the date fixed for opening the Mettur Dam for the benefit of farmers in the Cauvery delta area.

I would like to point out in this connection that the total capacity of the Mettur Dam is 92 tmcft; the average storage as on January was only four tmcft; now it is 3.5 tmcft-6 tmcft, which is nothing but a dead-storage. I would like to impress upon the Government as well as the hon. Prime Minister of India that if this Ministry wants to continue the same situation in Tamil Nadu, we will continue to have withered paddy, blighted sugarcane, shrivelled palmyra trees, distraught women holding pots demanding drinking water and desperate men reduced to tears by the dry expanse, that is, their farmland.

I once again demand that the meeting should be convened at the earliest date by the Government of India and the hon. Prime Minister. It was based on the judgement of the hon. Supreme Court in February that they decided that 4500 cusecs of water should be released. The Government of Karnataka had also promised to release 1200 cusecs of water. But then, they had not done so. Even now, they are turning a deaf ear to the cries of the people of Tamil Nadu. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It cannot be 1200 cusecs because the annual release itself is only 205 tmcft. Please ask her to correct the figure. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be no argument please.

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA: I urge upon the Government of India and the Karnataka Government which is being ruled by the Congress to settle the dispute and release water for the benefit of the people of Tamil Nadu. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour'. Why should there be a debate on this?

DR. V. SAROJA: I am sorry. It is 1200 cusecs. I urge upon the Government of India and the hon. Prime Minister to convene the meeting of CMC at the earliest date, without any further delay. With these few lines, I conclude. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All those hon. Members who are present in the House belonging to her Party will be associated with this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Last year, there was an unprecedented drought in the Cauvery delta areas particularly in the districts of Thanjavur, Mayavaram, Nagapattinam and Pudukkottai and also in Pondicherry. Due to this unprecedented drought, farmers and agricultural labourers were facing a lot of problem. Due to this severe drought last year, the agricultural labourers who had not found anything for their food, were is search of rats and other things for their daily feed.

Those who were opposing the Cauvery River Water Tribunal are now supporting the demand to convene an urgent meeting of the Tribunal. On behalf of DMK, I support the move. I also urge upon the Government to convene that meeting and find out a solution for the problems faced by the farmers. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Sir, the Government has to respond to this issue. This is an issue concerning the entire State of Tamil Nadu. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, would you like to raise the issue tomorrow if the Minister is present at that time?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, this is an issue concerning the entire State of Tamil Nadu. We want a categorical reply from the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Now let the Minister respond. Please sit down. The Minister wants to respond to the issue concerning Tamil Nadu. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Sir, I want to say only one word. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. Every hon. Member is not permitted. Moreover, you have not given me a notice. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, your Leader has already spoken. I cannot permit all the Members to speak. It is not possible.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter. *...(Interruptions)* It is not fair. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per your instructions I would inform hon'ble Prime Minister about the matter raised by Dr. V. Saroja.

13.01 hrs.

THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already taken the permission of the House to take these two important Bills.

Mr. Minister, you had moved consideration motion for this Bill yesterday. Now you can speak on it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I moved the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2003. Many a times

discussions have been held in the House on this bill and steps have been taken by the Government with regard to the issue of sugarcane growers in the entire country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, Mr. Minister, you had already spoken on this bill when your had introduced it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have stated a number of time.

MR. SPEAKER: Then what is the use of speaking again?

[English]

I want to finish this business as early as possible.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are aware that we have paucity of time so you please come to the point. We have got only half-an-hour for the entire Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I had already put forth this thing before the House. If you want that the consumers should get its benefit then make your submission in short and let the farmers take maximum benefit of it. You can express your views and conclude as early as possible.

[English]

This is in the interest of the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, how much time I will be provided.

MR. SPEAKER: You will get three minutes.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, three minutes is very less so please give me at least ten minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many a times concern has been expressed on this issue in this august House. After bringing this Bill many steps have been taken in this direction which includes the increase of Rs. 5 per quintal in M.S.P., creation of buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes and provision of subsidy in internal transport. Besides, subsidy was given in ocean trade. When the discussion on this bill was going on at that time hon'ble Prime Minister had told in this House on 19 December. Before introducing regulated release mechanism the rate of sugar in the market was decreased. Despite, our stock is not decreasing continuously. Therefore, I would like to tell hon'ble Members that discussion on this subject has already been taken place. Therefore this bill be passed expeditiously.

MR. SPEAKER: I have also the same suggestion that it should be passed at the earliest.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister said that the prices of sugar would be controlled through regulated release mechanism and remunerative price would be given to sugarcane growers for their produce but I have some apprehensions about it. First of all I would like to congratulate those sugarcane growers who have achieved first place in the world by producing 184 lakh tonnes sugar. They have left Brazil far behind in this matter. I would like to tell hon'ble Minister that they have not made this achievement due to his efforts but it is the result of their hard work. Three States of the country namely Maharashtra, U.P. and Haryana have produced 67 lakh tonnes, 47 lakh tonnes and 5.90 lakh tonnes of sugar respectively. Thus out of the total production of the sugar of 184 lakh tonnes 110 lakh tonnes of sugar has been produced only by these three States.

13.05 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Due to the hard work of farmers this much of sugarcane was produced. When the sugarcane growers were demanding the price of their produce in U.P., they were fired at. They should be ashamed. Today the situation of sugar mills is such they have suffered loss of approximately Rs. 5500 crore. On one hand it is being said that if the recovery is good, reasonable price would be given for sugar. If the recovery of sugar is 8.7 percent then its prices could be given Rs. 59 per quintal.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hutatma and Manjara sugar mills in Maharashtra under cooperative sector have made

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

13.7 percent recovery. When they have made such a huge recovery then why do you not give a price of Rs. 90 per quintal for sugar. It is an account of the inappropriate policy of the Government. These problems have cropped up. That is why there is a situation of confrontation between sugarmill and farmers. Hon'ble Minister told that had made efforts to increase export. It is a very good gesture that the Government have withdrawn quantitative restrictions (Q.R.) they have asked the exporters not to get registered with A.P.E.D.A. But what happened later on. Even then our sugar export has decreased. The exports of sugar which was 11.5 lakh M.T. in the year 2001 came down to 9.38 lakh M.T. in the year 2002 and this year also there is no possibility of any increase in sugar export. Though, the Government have increased to 20 percent import duty on sugar even then sugar has been imported. Therefore, there is a need to increase import duty further. Besides unless the subsidy on export is increased we will not be able to export sugar.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, production cost is the biggest problem of sugarcane farmers today. In our country the cost of sugar production is Rs. 13700 M.T. whereas in other countries it comes out at Rs. 9975 M.T. Our production cost is approximately Rs. 4000 M.T. higher. It's main reason is that the electricity tariffs and water tax are higher in our country and we do not have the latest technology in this field. As far as the question of technology is concerned, we have a National Sugar Institute in Kanpur. However, I don't know whether I should feel good or bad as this Institute has a total number of 151 students only. The Government should provide some more funds to this Institute so that the Institute could become more viable from technical point of view. The Institute has only 44 students for associateship of National Sugar Institute, sugar technology course. The number of students in associateship of National Sugar Institute, sugar Engineering course is only 12. Whereas for the certificate course of Sugar Engineering there are only 4 students. Therefore, I think that this Institute needs some assistance so as to strengthen it technically.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been given less time therefore I will conclude my speech after making two-three points. The Government have enormous funds in sugar development fund. They have provided Rs. 458 crore for increasing the production of sugarcane. But it is the duty of State Governments to increase the production of sugarcane and they will do it. Therefore, if by reducing the funds reduced funds are provided to the sugar mills for increasing the production of ethanol, it will improve their viability. In Brazil mixing of 10% ethanol in petrol is permissible while the Government have given the permission for mixing 5% which is a very good step. However it is quite less it should be increased up to at least 15%, only then it will be beneficial to the sugar mills.

They are talking about future trading. They have opened sugar exchanges, permission has been granted to open two exchanges in Mumbai and one in Hyderabad. On one hand they talk about furture trading and on the other legislation is being enacted according to which sugarmill owner or mills of co-operative sector will have to seek permission for selling their goods in the market. As such, how the trading is possible.

Therefore, lastly my submission is that unless efforts are made to increase the sugar exports, this problem would not be solved and the talks will keep on failing in this way, sugarcane growers will keep on agitating and similarly sugar mills will keep on closing down.

Hon'ble Minister, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that it is a very serious matter. It shoudl be taken seriously and the problem be solved at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a few points. The hon. Minister has mentioned briefly that the only purpose of this Bill is to regulate the releases of sugar. This is not going to solve the problem. The purpose of this Bill is only to see that the market is not flooded with stocks of sugar as a result of which the prices go down and consequent to which the farmers suffer. This is the object of the Bill. Some people have gone to the courts and have obtained release orders from the courts. In such cases, the Government does not have any control. The Government intends to bring in certain measures to stop such type of release orders through the courts.

Sir, I am not going to quote the figures about the old stocks and the production of this year. The basic issue today is as to how to save the sugar industry and the sugarcane growers. The Government has not applied its mind to this aspect. I am not going to blame the Minister. This is an issue where the Government has a apply its mind in order to bring a comprehensive policy in this matter. Even the issue of fixing the Minimum Support Price is pending before a five-member Constitution

Bench of the Supreme Court. If this is the situation that is prevailing in the country today, then who is going to decide about the Minimum Support Price to be given to the farmers? Is it the State Governments? Is it the Union Government? Or, is it the courts?

Sir, I do not want to criticise the Judiciary but the way things are moving in this country, I do not know whether the Government has applied its mind to it, or the Law Ministry has applied its mind to it or the Attorney-General has applied his mind to it. What would be the fate of the farmers? This matter has been dragging on from one court to another for the last four to five years. Now, this matter is pending before a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

Sir, the other thing is that the Government is trying to regulate the releases of sugar, but what about the old stocks of sugar? They have been lying in the godowns for the last two to three years. They cannot be used for human consumption now. What does the Government propose to do with those old stocks? On the one hand there is a question of price. The State of Maharashtra says that they are going to give Rs. 1000/-per tonne. The State of Haryana is giving around Rs. 950/-or Rs. 960/-per tonne. But some States are not in a position to even pay Rs. 450/per tonne. Sugarcane has not been crushed in several States even after four to five months have elapsed. Nobody is bothered about it. Today, the Government only propose to regulate the release of sugar. In what way does the Government proposes to help the farmers? You are trying to help the farmers in this way. But it would not help their cause.

Sir, I would like to make a point here. More than Rs. 2500 crore is lying with the Government of India under the Sugarcane Cess Fund. I do not know whether it has come under the General Budget for dealing with the fiscal deficit position of the Government or not. I do not want to argue on that point. More than Rs. 2500 crore is the Sugar Cess Fund that has been collected. For what purpose is that being used? Are you going to give any support to the farmers in the form of transport subsidy or export subsidy or to reduce the purchase tax? There are so many things.

Our friend is telling about ethanol. It is not going to solve the problem. We are talking very loudly on the ethanol business. I do not think there is going to be a solution to this. You are going to take 100 per cent of even the molasses. If you leave 25 or 30 per cent molasses to the farmers, even they can manufacture the spirit. This is not a big issue. There are so many ways to save the sugar industry.

For the pledge loan, our Finance Minister announced something. I do not want to interfere in these matters again by taking the time of the House because I know there is the constraint of time as various partiers are going to share the available time and I do not want to blame the Chair also. Shri Yerrannaidu was so jubilant when he said that the Reserve Bank was going to give guidelines to waive the interest component. Where is the Reserve Bank guideline? I do not want to criticise the Reserve Bank. Have you gone through the Reserve Bank direction? Have you gone through the NABARD direction? You want to say that the Government has accepted that one year interest is going to be waived. Where is it? Did you check up with your Finance Minister? Even if there is an iota of truth in it, I will apologise. Why do you unnecessarily mislead the people? Even on pledge loan, the sugarcane stockiest are going to pay 17 per cent interest. Whereas for purchase of cars, loans are available at 8 to 9 per cent interest! Is this the way your save the sugar industry and the farmers?

Do not be under the impression that you will all continue for ever in the Government at the cost of the farmers. I can debate on this issue for hours together. I am sorry to say I do not know how many farmers, particularly the sugarcane growers, have committed suicide. They are playing with the lives of the farmers. In Uttar Pradesh, since 1998 the matter regarding fixation of the MSP has been in the court; first it had gone to the High Court and then to the Supreme Court. What is the Government of India doing? Can you not find a solution to this problem? You want to regulate only by brining this piece of legislation. I am sorry to say that if at all there is a Government in the last 53 years which has been so callous towards the farming community, it is the Vajpayee Government. I am badly hurt at the fate of the farming community in this country.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I will only confine to the main points of the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2003. This Amending Bill has been brought to regulate the release of free-sale sugar because some vested interests are going to the court. Actually they are not vested interests; they are the real sufferers. Mills are going to the court for getting the extra releases. The Government want to regulate this because they do not want to release the stock.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Kindly yield for a minute. Even some of those people who got the releases through the court and have sold the sugarcane, have not paid the dues to the farmers. I welcome this measure insofar as regulating the releases is concerned. I just want to tell you that even those who got the release and sold their stocks have not paid the farmers.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: As it has been rightly pointed out, it is my apprehension also that perhaps this amendment may create more problems for the farmers and also to the mills because you do not want to approach the court and at the same time you do not want to sell them the stocks. Ultimately, you will not be able to pay to the farmers.

So, this is a vicious circle. How will the Government come out of this vicious circle? I would like to know on this point. Instead of curbing sale, we should think of other means of making the mills healthy. There are 520 sugar mills out of which only 55 mills are Government mills. All other mills are in the co-operative sector and private sector. The mills under the co-operative sector as well as the public sector are already not able to pay anything to the farmers. Only the private mills are paying them. For the past one year, even they are also in heavy debt and not able to pay them. What are the measures taken by the Government to make the factories comfortable?

As it has been pointed by Shri Deve Gowda, the interest rates are very high. A year back, the interest rate was 17 per cent. Now, they are offering about 12 per cent to 13 per cent because of lower rates. It should be brought down to six per cent. Why are you asking them to pay interest on the stocks which they are already holding? Government can give subsidy in interest at least so that the burden will not be there on the mills. You are not allowing them to sell. At the same time, they are being charged extra interest. This is the problem.

For example, the excise duty on molasses has been increased year after year. Now, why do not you think of removing the excise on molasses at least so that the mills will get a higher rate? The mills are not being allowed to get a higher rate. The rate is very high now. Sugar production is declining already. At the end of 2002 season, it was 183 lakh tonnes. In 2003, it is estimated at 175 lakh tonnes. So, it is already coming down. Export is negligible except last year, 2001-02, which was 14.6 lakh metric tonnes. Why are we not exporting large quantity of sugar? Our internal consumption is also not increasing. Poor people are not using sugar. The internal consumption is 173 lakh metric tonnes. That means, with our production being 175 lakh tonnes, our internal consumption and production are equalised.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Our internal consumption is not more than 130 lakh tonnes.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: They are showing our internal consumptions as 173 lakh tonnes. This is the figure shown. That means, if the tendency continues, over the next two or three years, you have to import sugar. How to dispose of the present stock is the criteria. So, we have to make effort to export more sugar. Give them incentives. Why can you not give them Rs. 1000 as incentive, offer packing material, presentation and sell it so that this could be exported? If they could export, all the mills will be able to pay to the farmers.

We support the Bill for the time being. But this is not a long-term solution. You must think of a long-term solution keeping in view the difficulties of the farmers and see how to improve the efficiency of the sugar mills, their cash flows and productivity. I would request the hon. Minister to take all these suggestions into consideration.

I thank, you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Akhileshji, please speak in brief.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): If sufficient time is not given, I would not be able to make my submission properly. *...(Interruptions)*

My. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important Bill and this bill is creating problems for farmers therefore I would like to bring all the facts to your notice. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker had made an appeal to you to conclude this bill expeditiously because we have another 2-3 bills to be taken up for discussions.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane farmer is dying. It is a very important issue. *...(Interruptions)* This bill will be beneficial to sugar mill owners and will be harmful for the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, on every issue you do like this. Please do not drag it and please conclude your submission as early as possible.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of hon'ble Minister that today the sugarcane growers of the country are facing lots of severe problems and the farmers of Uttar Pradesh, the biggest State of the country are in distress. The situation is such that 3 farmers were killed in police firing in Munderva, 2 in Padrauna and 3 farmers were killed in Ramkota. Andhra Pradesh too have similar situation as just now told by our colleague. Today, the farmer is compelled to commit suicide. Today, the situation in U.P. is so grave that last year the sugarcane growers of U.P. got the price of their produce at the rate of Rs. 95 to 100 per quintal. In current year the price of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh has been fixed at the rate of Rs. 82.5 and Rs. 85 as there was collusion between sugar mill owners and U.P. Government but later on after the intervention of the hon'ble Prime Minister the M.S.P. was increased by Rs. 5 Even that price is not being given to sugarcane growers. In this Bill he has given the plea that some sugar mill owners are implementing sugar release order by the order of the court. Through this legislation they will not be able to implement that order even by the order of the court. Besides, the price of sugar will increase thereby. I would like to bring to your notice that if the farmer is a biggest producer then he is also the biggest consumer. These sugar mill owners would not let the farmer get benefited by the increased sugar price.

The Hon'ble Minister of Food, Sir, you talk about farmers but you have a bitter experience of these capitalists therefore do not take it for granted that if the price of sugar increases, the farmers would garner benefit of that also. *...(Interruptions)* They will exploit farmers as consumers.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli): The sugar mill owners in Maharashtra are farmers themselves.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you. How can I call all of you together? Please sit down.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I would like to cite the example of U.P. In U.P. he has provided the subsidy of Rs. 400 crores to sugar mils. He has given rebate in purchase tax, entry tax, thus the benefit of approximately Rs. 600 crore has been provided to mill owners. The Government have given concessions including the benefit of Rs. 600 crore to the sugar mill owners. Last year the price of sugarcane was determined at the rate of Rs. 95 to 100 whereas this year they are purchasing sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 82.5 to 85 per quintal. As compared to the last year, the crushing of sugarcane is.... and these mill owners have already harvested the additional benefit of Rs. 600 crore. *...(Interruptions)* I won't be able to conclude my submission.

They have been provided the additional benefit of Rs. 600 crores on the basis of difference in the prices of sugarcane fixed in current year and last year. Whereas you can see how much arear is outstanding against sugarmills. Right now, I have got the report of U.P. dated 22.4.2003 which shows Rs. 781 crore are outstanding against them. Last year the sugar was sold at the rate of Rs. 11 per kg. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, last year the sugarmill owners fixed the wholesale rate of sugar Rs. 11 per kg. This year also their sugar was sold at the same rate. They have got the benefit of Rs. 1200 crores in Uttar Pradesh only due to the rebate provided by the State Government and Union Government besides, the fewer price of sugarcane. Even then the sugar mill owners have not given the rate of sugarcane to the farmers that was fixed last year. Therefore I would like to say that this issue should also be considered.

The Minimum Support Price (M.S.P.) fixed by the Government of India is also not being paid by sugarmill owners. Whereas the Rule says that if the sugarcane farmers do not get their payment within 15 days, they should be given interest on it and if their payment is not made within 30 days then a recovery certificate will be issued against sugar mill owners. When the hon'ble Prime Minister called the Chief Minister of UP even then she did not pay attention to it. As per the order given by hon'ble Supreme Court dated 31.01.2001 negotiated price shall be implemented. Minimum support price will not be implemented. The UP government presented false facts before the hon'ble High Court, hon'ble Supreme Court has served the notices of contempt of court on sugarmill owners and the U.P. Government. According to the order of hon'ble Supreme Court the sugarcane growers of UP should be given the rate of Rs. 95 and 100 per quintal for their produce. Therefore, hon'ble Minister, Sir, I would like to submit that when the order of Supreme Court is being violated and the advice of our hon'ble Prime Minister is not being complied with then how can the farmers get

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]
the benefit. obtained by the hike in the price of sugar. Therefor I would like to submit that this bill be withdrawn and be refered to the Parliamentary Committee or if the rate of sugar increases, its benefit be provided to the farmer also. However, it will certainly affect the consumers. I would humbly like to submit that it should be referred to select committee. Right now hon'ble Minister should withdraw this bill.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my name is also there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may rest assured that I will call you also.

[English]

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. This Bill has been brought to plug the loopholes by which the mill owners are indulging in malpractices. The Minister is proposing to add two sub-clauses to Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act and I welcome this piece of legislation.

The mill owners, by taking advantage of articles 14 and 19 of the Constitution, went to the court and got a decree in their favour to release more sugar which the Government has been controlling from time to time. But now, the Government has decided to decontrol the sugar industry in a phased manner. If the sugar industry is decontrolled, the worst sufferers will be the sugarcane growers. As on 15.11.2002, the arrears due to the sugarcane growers from the mill owners was Rs. 556.37 crore. I do not know when they will get their arrears. If the sugarcane growers fail to grow sugarcane in the country, then the whole sugar industry is bound to collapse. So, I would request the Government to review its decision to decontrol the sugar industry and try to protect the interests of sugarcane growers in the country.

Sir, we have the Sugar Control Order, 1966. But this also could not plug the loopholes which were taken advantage of by the mill owners to indulge in malpractices. Now the Government has tried to minimise the levy sugar quota and they are trying to withdraw the levy sugar in a phased manner. If the sugar industry is to be decontrolled and if the sugar mill owners are allowed to do their business as they like, then what is the necessity for this piece of legislation? To implement this legislation, I think, the Government should revive the 40 per cent production of mills to be made compulsory again. Otherwise, this legislation will become inoperative.

Sir, I would also request the Government to revive all the ration shops in the country. The running of ration shops fall under the jurisdiction of State Governments and it is not the responsibility of the Central Government. But suddenly, the price of sugar for APL consumers increased abruptly throughout the country. So, all the ration shops are running at a loss and the ration shops dealers have abandoned their business. This way even we, the MPs, are not getting ration, through we have ration cards. So, I would request the hon. Minister that this should be revived. For the poor people the ration shop is the main shop for getting the essential commodities.

With these words I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Member, who wants to lay his speech can do so. Shri Adhi Sankar can lay his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to lay your speech, you can do so. It would be better.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Mr. Deputy Speaker , Sir, I will speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, conclude in a minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: I am laying my speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are allowed. Rest of the Members can lay their speeches. Now, the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, give me permission to speak, I have risen to speak in favour of farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*. Three names have been given

from Bharatiya Janata Party and till now, nobody from Bharatiya Janta Party has spoken. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We conduct it over here, after coordinating everything. Do not tell me all these things. I can not tell you what the Members of your party said.

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I too should be given opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may lay your speech.

[English]

*SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this Bill is brought with an intention to prevent the mill-owners from selling the sugar with the aid of the court order. But this Bill should have come with more amendments. I mean to say that this Bill is only intended to strengthen the hands of the Government.

There should have been a clause for strengthening the hands of the sugarcane growers also. The interests of the sugarcane growers have been totally neglected in this Bill. In our country, no consumer is saying that he is not getting sugar at a reasonable price. There is no dearth of sugar in the country. It is not a case of the consumers saying that they are not getting sugar at a reasonable price in this shops or through the PDS. The Sugarcane growers, all over the country, have not been paid. The sugar mill owners are enjoying the fruits. The sugarcane growers have not been paid for the past three years. The sugarcane growers are getting on fire the sugarcane crops. They have no money to repay the loan that was taken to raise the crop. This is the important issue. This amendment, as I have said earlier, seeks to enable the mill-owners and exporters to sell the sugar which they have stocked in their godowns or warehouses. That is the motive. The Government has not considered the repeated requests and demands of the farmers. That is why I am asking the Minister: What are the steps that he is proposing to take to protect the interests of the sugarcane growers? What provisions have you provided in this Bill? The cooperative sugar mills have borrowed money after pledging their sugar to the banks. They are charging 14-16% interest. They are not getting the release orders from the Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he is going to save the sugarcane growers in this country. What provisions have you provided in this Bill? The Government has totally neglected the sugarcane growers. It is not caring for the sugarcane growers. Therefore, I humbly submit to you, please look into the problems of the sugarcane growers.

The interests of the consumers and the sugarcane growers have to be protected. I would like to know whether this Bill will serve this twin-purpose, When prices have come down, you are intervening. What about the sugarcane growers? How are you going to solve the problem? Will you kindly let me know how much amount the mill-owners have to pay to the sugarcane growers? For how long, they did not pay to them? What is the reason behind that? I would like to know whether the Government of India has taken any concrete steps in this regard, except giving that Rs. 800 crores. It is not a party issue. It is an issue concerning the people from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. The sugarcane growers are affected throughout India. I feel that the intention of this Bill is good.

[Translation]

*SHRI MANSINH PATEL (Mandvi): Sir, Shri Sharad Yadav has presented Essential Commodities Bill 2003 to amend Essential Commodities Act 1955. I welcome it and express my gratitude to hon'ble Minister and hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and I would also like to thank the hon'ble Speaker who gave me an opportunity to participate in this discussion.

Sir, ours is an agriculture based country. 70 percent population of this country is dependant on agriculture. Sugarcane production and sugar industry is the biggest agricultural industry of the country. For the last three to four years, sugarcane and sugar production is increasing continuously in the country. Besides on roll consumption of country, heavy stocks are lying in godowns of sugar mills. There is a need of extra godowns and economic situation of sugar mills is deteriorating. Sugarmills are not able to make regular payment to sugarcane growers, resultantly sugarcane growers are dying due to starvation, they are being ruined.

Sir, the Union Government have taken many steps to protect sugarcane growers and sugar mills. Even today,

*Speech was laid on the Table.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Mansinh Patel]

sugar mills are unable to pay minimum support price to the sugarcane growers, many legal complications are arising, which would involve sugar mill owner into legal litigation, the hon'ble Minister has to evolve a way out in this regard.

Sir, our Government has taken many steps for the welfare of sugarcane growers and sugar mills. Incompatible import policy of previous Governments has been changed and 60 percent duty has been imposed on import of sugar so as to check sugar import in the country. For many years, the issue of ethanol remained undecided. The permission to manufacture ethanol from molasses, the sheera, by-product of sugar mills, and to add 5 percent of it in petrol has been given, which will restrict the import of fuel thus promoting saving and enabling the sugar mill owners to make regular payments to sugarcane growers. The percentage of ethanol in the fuel should be increased from 5 to 15 so that sugarcane growers may get more benefit. There is a need to provide on-roll transportation subsidy and average subsidy to boost export of sugar. Sugar mills are getting a little respite with decision of Central Government of creation of buffer stock of sugar and in fact there is a need of buffer stock of sugar.

Sir, the savings of sugarcane growers are lying with the Union Government in form of Sugar Development Fund, there is a need to use this fund for development of sugarcane and sugar industry.

The Government have taken revolutionary decision in regard to giving loan from Sugar Development Fund for sugarcane development, modernization of sugar mills, revival of sick sugar mills, and setting up of ethanol plant.

Sir, in Gujarat and Maharashtra, sugar industry completely lies under Government sector and this industry is on verge of closure. I demand that adequate financial assistance should be provided to it.

There are many sugar mills which managed to get release orders from the Union Government release and provide huge quantity of sugar in the open market through Court's intervention during the last 4-5 months in order to tackle the situation. This has lead to the fall in the price of sugar by Rs. 100 to Rs. 300 in the market. As a result of it almost all Government sugar mils are on verge of closure.

Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to strength the release mechanism of Centre by passing this bill and sugar stock should be brought in the market so that interest of sugarcane and sugar industry and farmers could be protected.

Sir, I would also like to demand from Union Government and the hon'ble Minister, the sugar mill owners who have been responsible for the fall in the price of sugar through the intervention of court should be penalised and more release orders should be given to those sugar mills how comply Government rules so that sugar lying in open could be sold in market before the rainy season.

Sir, I would also like to demand that loan from Sugar Development Fund should also be granted for setting up plant for manufacturing of ethanol from molasses, and this loan should not be given to State Governments, but directly to the sugar mills, it would be more beneficial for sugar mills and sugarcane growers. Sir, I again congratulate the hon. Minister and the Central Government and express my gratitude. I also fully support this bill.

*SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL (Jalna): Sir, I rise to support the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1955 which has already been passed in Rajya Sabha and now introduced to be passed in Lok Sabha by Hon'ble Minister Shri Sharad Yadav.

Sir, I would speak about the need for introducing this bill in Lok Sabha by the hon'ble Minister. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Central Government had made a mechanism for supply of sugar produced in our Sugar mills to the masses. This mechanism was applicable all over the country. Government used to issue stock release order to the concerned Sugar mill every month. Sugar mill had to sell the sugar as per that order. Sugar mills did not face any problem till this mechanism was in force. The prices of sugar did not come down.

Sir, the problem arose when the private Sugar mill owners of Uttar Pradesh challenged this mechanism in High Court and stated that they did not have godowns to keep their sugar stock. They have taken loans from the banks to make payments for sugarcane. They have no space to store the sugar. Payments are to be made to the farmers and sugar does not come under Essential Commodities Act or under Scheduled (9). Therefore, they should be permitted to sell their sugar in market. Court has given permission to these mills and sugar is being sold without obtaining permission from the Government.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, why the Court gave permission? It is because sugar is not included in the Schedule (9) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. That is why Court has given permission in this regard.

Had all sugar been included in Schedule (9), the Court would not have had given permission. Therefore, hon'ble Minister has introduced this bill to include the sugar in Scheudle (9).

Sir, I may tell you the total production and stock of sugar in our country. It was 117 lakh Mt. tonnes in 2001-2002 and 191 lakh Mt. tonnes in 2002-2003. It is 308 Mt. Tonnes in two years.

Sir, even if no Sugar mill runs in the next year, even then 138 lakh Mt. tonne sugar would be there in stock.

Sir, in our country, a person consumes 15 kg sugar in a year. And the population of the country is approx. 100 crore. Hence 150 Mt. tonne sugar is consumed in a year.

Sir, there is a big gap in the production and consumption of sugar. Therefore, Government should provide relief in the interest which sugar mill owners are paying for the additional stock of sugar lying in their mills.

Sir, I would like to tell you where reliefs are required to be given. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Court issued the order to sell the sugar, sugar mills started selling their sugar in West Bengal, Assam and Orissa which affected the Cooperative Mills in Maharashtra.

Sir, due to court's order, a loss of rupees 1568 as short margin was suffered by sugar mills during one year, thereby lending Sugar Mills in trouble. But the Maharashtra Government asked them for rehabilitation and to return this amount of Rs. 1568 crore within five instalments. If the same situation continues, this short margin will increase by 30% every year and sugar mills will be closed down.

Sir, to meet the situation arises due to Court's decision, Maharashtra Government made some efforts. One of them was that a Sugar Export Cell was constituted under the Chairmanship of Sugar Commissioner. Through this cell sugar is exported after being collected from Sugar Mills. So far 5 lakh Mt. tonne sugar has been exported through the agreement was to export 8 lakh Mt. tonne sugar because sugar prices are down in foreign countries also.

Sir, not only India, but other countries like Brazil, Kenya and Thailand also produce sugar in surplus. These countries are giving large scale subsidy for the export of surplus sugar produced there. Therefore, our sugar mill owners got Rs. 920 per quintal. Only for the sugar they exported.

Sir, I may tell you that it costs Rs. 1500-1600 to a sugar mill to produce 1 quintal sugar. And if they are getting only Rs. 900-1000, we can very well imagine the plight of sugar industry.

Sir, Central Government has imposed some restrictions on Sugar mills. Out of them, I would like to remind you about the S.M.P. Central Government has fixed Rs. 560 per quintal for the sugar mills whose recovery is 8.30. 70 paise per point have been fixed for the recovery above this limit. However, no sugar mill can give sugar at this rate. Secondly, I would like to tell you that sugar mills have to pay levy also. There have been some changes in this regards recently. Earlier this percentage was 40.60, then it was 30.70, 15.85 and later on it was 10.90. Figures have shown that sugar is not lifted even when the levy is 10% as the levy rates are 1191 per quintal. Today the situation in the market is that the levy is high and the price of sugar is much cheap in open market. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the end I support this bill but due to paucity of time, I am going to conclude my speech with some suggestions to the Government for the steps to be taken to overcome this situation.

Some suggestions are—sugar mills should be brought under Agricultural Private Sector, rate of interest in the banks should be reduced, excise duty should be reduced at least for 5 years, earlier new sugar mills were getting the benefits of Sampat Committee but not now. Therefore, in place of it, equivalent funds shoudl be given from SDF.

Sir, the loan for setting up sugar mill is given at 17-18% rate of interest, thus accounting to 8-10 crore rupees per year for the payment of interest only. I think interest rates otherwise are going down but there is a need to provide loans to sugar mills at a lower rate of interest.

Excise duty at the rate of Rs. 85 per quintal is being given to Central Government for the sugar sold from sugar mills. This excise duty should be exempted till the sugar market overcome this situation.

Sugar mills are not covered in agricultural sector, therefore, they remain deprived of the benefits given to

[Shri Danve Raosaheb Patil]

this sector. Therefore, sugar mills should be brought under Agricultural sector.

Sir, earlier to repay the loan taken from the banks to set up new Sugar Mill, mill owners were getting benefits of Sampat Committee. However, today sugar mills are in crisis in the absence of benefits of Sampat Committee.

I request that the funds equivalent to the benefits provided by Sampat Committee should be given through SDF to the new sugar mills. With these suggestions, I support the Bill.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill. I wish to support it as these issues are related with consumers, farmers and the sugar mills. I wish to put views of all the three. Last time sugar mill owners went to the Court. I wish to speak about the release of sugar by the sugar mills as I had moved a resolution in this very House stating that arrangements should be made for making payment of outstanding amount of sugarcane farmers as also for running the sick sugar mills. There are nine sugar mills in the district to which I belong. Out of these nine mills two public sector sugarmills and two of British India Corporation, are lying closed and the other two Private sugar mills are on the verge of closure. Thus only three mills are running. Condition of farmers is really bad. They get receipt from mills for their Sugarcane on which only weight of sugar cane is mentioned but no where it is mentioned that how much payment is to be made and what is the procurement price of their sugarcane? Most important point of our concern is that the Government should make arrangements for running sugar mills keeping in view the interest of sugarcane farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can ask for clarification later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Discussion is being held on sugar mills. How can you say this. No this cannot happen. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.39 hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table)

...*(Interruptions)*

13.40 hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether any Parliamentary Affairs Minister is present here to give reply to these Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Jaiswalji, please conclude.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: If this Act is in the interests farmers, then. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Sir, I may also be given a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would give you two minutes.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: It is admirable if this Act would benefit the farmers. But I had moved a resolution on the same subject on which a five hour discussion took place that farmers dues should be paid. Rs. 300 crores of sugarcane growers are outstanding against the mills. When the issue was raised in the House, it was said that the procurement price of sugarcane would be fixed by Union Government but the payment would be made by the State Governments only. When the Government have Sugar Development Fund with it then why this fund is not being used to make the sick sugar mills viable? Huge sums are there. These sugar mills were started in 1933 and today they are on the verge of ruination. They are not being properly managed. Quality of sugar being produced is not good. ...*(Interruptions)* There are two groups of sugar mill owners. One group is in favour of this Act while the other is opposing it. That is why I request that this Act may be implemented so as to avoid such condition of farmers and consumers. Union Government should make arrangements for this and it should be its responsibility to make payment to the sugarcane farmers. The Union Government should not put this responsibility on the State Governments. Total amount of payment with Procurement Price should be mentioned on the receipt given to farmers. I am in great favour of improving the condition of farmers. It would be good if the Government propose to make arrangements for them, but what would the Government do of the Buffer Stock? Where would it be stored and if the sugar remains lying in open for one month, it would go yellow and cannot be then exported. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now and co-operate with us.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: I am co-operating and that is why I am saying that I am concluding. I request the hon. Minister to make some arrangements through this Act for safeguarding the interests of farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: There is no such provision in this bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Akhileshji, will you not allow even your party members to speak.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: This bill has been brought under the pressure of sugar mill owners and capitalists. Grave irregularities have been committed in it. This Government have taken crores of rupees in this regard. This bill has been brought in haste. It is so important issue that an arrears of crores of rupees of sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh is still pending. 751 crores rupees are to be paid to the sugarcane growers. Private sugarmill owners are allowed to keep their stock, then there will be increase in the black-marketing openly and consequently the farmers will suffer lot of losses. Mill owners will sell their sugar at arbitrary prices. They will say that as they have sufficient stock of sugar they will not procure sugarcane from the farmers. Under such a situation where the farmers will sell their produce.

I am pained to say that even being a son of a farmer, Shri Sharad Yadav has brought this anti-farmer bill. It is anti-consumer bill. But it is in the interest of the sugar mill owners. Therefore, I request to refer this bill to Standing Committee for reconsideration. If it is not referred to Standing Committee, then I will assume that this Government is involved in some bungling committed in this regard and also that this Government is anti-farmer. I oppose this bill and demand a comprehensive discussion on it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since yesterday and today also, I am observing that sugar lobby is very powerful. No member from the treasury benches can say that this bill will be beneficial to the sugarmill owners and farmers will suffer more. If it is not so, then why it is being passed in haste under the pressure of mill owners. Since yesterday. I am observing that Government is making all efforts to pass this bill in haste. All members want to speak on this bill because farmer is in distress today.

Through this bill three benefits are being provided to sugar mill owners. Earlier the Government has imposed 65% levy on sugar which was lateron brought down to 40% under the pressure of sugar mill owners. Thereafter, it was reduced to 10% and now it is going to be abolished. A benefit of Rs. 350 crores has been given to sugar mill owners.

A benefit of Rs. 750 crores has been given to sugar mill owners in the name of buffer stock. Sugar mill owners will garner more and more benefit by increasing prices but Sugarcane growers will face problems. There is no law in this regard, no discussion held on it and nobody is concerned about it. Just now Shri M.P. Jaiswal spoke in favour of farmers just as they are seeking protection from the members but actually the benefit will go to sugar mill owners. Such a policy is being adopted by the Government. Government determine the maximum support price but even that is not being given to sugarcane growers while the prices of all other things are going up. Last year MSP of Sugarcane was fixed at Rs. 95 per quintal but this year it has been fixed at Rs. 85 per quintal. Such an injustice is being committed to the farmers. The prices of any other commodity have not been reduced as compared to the prices of sugarcane.

Sugarcane growers sell their sugarcane to mills but they do not get benefit. They do not get timely payments. There is a provision to pay the interest on arrears but even the principal amount is not being given let alone the interest. Thousands of crores of rupees of sugarcane growers is outstanding against sugarmill owners. Sugarmills are being closed down in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and some other States also. Government have no policy, no law in this regard. Even the discussion is not being initiated on it. The only point under consideration is that as to how the benefit be provided to the sugar mill owners and how the prices of sugar can be increased. It is being stated that Rs. 350 crores have been given to farmers. Government should tell us as to where the sugarcane growers have been provided this funds. Sugar mill owners are being benefited in the name of farmers. Sugar mill owners have a strong lobby. 16 crore consumer families are living below the poverty line and 10 crore families are living above the poverty line. Supply of sugar to APL people through PDS has been discontinued. APL people are still having ration cards but sugar is not being given to them. Supply of sugar through PDS to the people living slightly above the poverty line has been discontinued though earlier they were getting it. Supply of sugar through PDS has already been stopped for APL people. Injustice is being done to

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

common consumers and sugarcane growers. Only the sugarmill owners are being benefited. It is better to make a legal provision in respect of sugar Control order so that farmers could get the sugar at lower prices. Payments are not being made to sugarcane growers for their produce prices of sugar produced by sugar mill owners are being increased and they are being given subsidy also on the import and export of sugar. Subsidy should not be given in this matter. Injustice is being done to farmers and labourers. What action has been taken by the Government to revive the closed sugar mills. They are being exploited in the entire process from the production of sugarcane to its transportation to sugar mills. They are exploited even in the matter of taking and giving the slip which is issued for procurement of sugar. Today farmers are in distress. Their pain can not be express in words. Farmers of all parts of the country are saying that they are in trouble but the Government is not paying any attention towards their problems. Sugar mill owners have very strong lobby. They get enacted law of their own choice. Yesterday, when all members had left the House, they were getting the bill passed. such a peculiar situation has never seen before. Arrears of the farmers should be cleared. Action should be taken to revive the closed sugar mills. The Government remains inactive on this issue. It acts quickly for mill owners but remains inactive on this issue. It acts quickly for mill owners but remains inactive in the matter of the farmers. I am against it.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): Sir, I may also be given the chance to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His speech has already been laid on the Table of the House. At 2 o' clock, we have to take up discussion under rule 193. There are two discussions under rule 193.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Sir, I am laying my speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The Bill contains many provisions, which are intended to protect Sugar industry. The Central Government is given more power towards control and distribution of sugar. The Essential Commodity Act required more amendments.

The Food Supply in the country is now completely privatised. The Public distribution system is more or less given up by the Government. The people will have to depend on open market. The big traders and wholesale traders get the upper hand. They decide the prices of essential goods. Hence the Essential Commodity Act requires changes. The sugar industry is also facing a crisis. The sugarcane producers are in debts.

The banks do not help them at proper time. Sugar industry is facing acute competition from abroad.

The drought situation is the another reason for crop failure. The Bill seeks to protect their interests. I support this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply. Do not interrupt now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Singh, this is unbecoming a Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disrupt now.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: The Government are taking bribe from mill-owners. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Singh, I have given you the chance then why are you interrupting. You please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, earlier also discussion has been held several times in the House over this Question and as a result thereof not one but many steps have been taken by the Government. We have taken all possible steps in this regard. Last year when discussion was held on this issue in the House on 16th December, at that time hon'ble Prime Minister was also present in the House. After the discussion, some steps were taken by the Government in this regard. The Minimum Support Price was increased by Rs. 5/- i.e. from Rs. 64/-, it was fixed at Rs. 69.50. All these steps were taken in this

*Speech was laid on the Table.

very House. The situation which has arisen in that certainly the rural people, sugarcane growers and consumers are deeply connected with sugar industry. The production of sugar has registered a constant increase during the last four years. This year, the production has been a whopping 180 lakh tonnes. Due to this, the stock remained at high level. In December 2002, the stock of sugar was 102 lakh tonnes. As a result of this, a crisis has crept in the Sugar industry. The Sugar price has fallen down from minimum of Rs. 150 upto Rs. 290. Due to this, production has also declined. India rank first in sugar production. Certainly, there was no need to bring this Bill and the position is that nothing has been done to tackle the release mechanism of sugar industries. For the last one and a half years, the decision of the Government to decontrol and deregulate the sugar sector has created a panic in this industry and the people associated with it had to knock the doors of the court. ...*(Interruptions)* 40 lakh metric tonnes of sugarcane was available in the market, which prompted a large scale decline in the prices of sugar and the people went to the court. Subsequently, the Central Government increase the statutory minimum price of sugar by Rs. 4-5. Kunwar Akhilesh Singhji had rightly said that last year farmers got Rs. 95 to Rs. 100 per quintal for their crop but this time, as a consequence of the steps taken by the Government, the people involved with sugar industry went to the court and took stay order. Hence we approached the Supreme Court. On this issue, I have had 3-4 meetings with the hon'ble Prime Minister. There has been a change in the price level but still there has been a difference of opinion between the Centre and the States. Hence we are struggling to resolve this issue. I am aware that the sugar industry and the sugarcane growers are facing lot of difficulties. Therefore we have taken several steps to mitigate their difficulties. We have enhanced the buffer stock by 20 lakh tonnes which had declined earlier. The second step which we have taken is that we have given internal transport subsidy on sugar freight and the buffer stock worth 786 crore rupees. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: (Rajgarh): Why export is declining after that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, this is the position. Shri Sharad Pawar is the leader of the country and the discussion relates to farming community. Shri Deve Gowdaji has rightly said that immediate steps have been taken by the Government.

14.00 hrs.

I accept that he has said a right thing. We have taken many steps. I would like to draw the attention of Shri Deve Gowdaji towards Sugar Development Fund. The Government of India has a reserve fund of Rs. 1300 crore in the Sugar Development Fund. I admit that we don't have sufficient funds but I have done whatever was possible within the resources available with us. In order to pay outstanding dues of the sugarcane growers, Rs. 786 crores have been released from the Sugar Development Fund alone, which is a huge amount. I have made such an arrangement with the Bank in consultation with Sugarcane Commissioner and other concerned people that so long as a certificate is not received from the Bank that they have paid all dues to the farmers, they will not receive their own payment. I would like to tell the House that we have also constituted a committee in this regard. The Department will observe, on day-to-day basis, that the funds given for the purpose reaches to the actual beneficiaries i.e. the farmers. I do agree that this problem cannot be solved unless we modernize the sugar industry. I feel that paying attention towards ethanol and co-generation will not remove this crisis. We have to modernize our industry. Globalization has taken place and open market system is prevalent due to which they are facing many problems. The price of sugar has declined. Hence unless we modernize and upgrade the sugar industry, this problem cannot be solved. Rs. 150 crores have been earmarked under Sugar Development Fund, Rs. 100 crores have been allocated for co-generation, Rs. 50 crores for ethanol, Rs. 50 crores for internal transport. Unless the quality of sugarcane is improved, the sugar mill would not be able to pay the good price for that. I accept what Shri Deve Gowdaji has said that the Government have taken immediate steps. I have done whatever was possible. Out of Rs. 1300 crore under the Sugar Development Fund, Rs. 1200 crore were spent to improve this position as this is an industry which concerns with rural people and its decline would mean the decline of rural industry.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, now you have to conclude.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I have given reply to what Shri Krishnamurthiji has asked about. Lakshmanji has said that sugar export is declining. During 2001, it was 3 lakh 49 thousand, which increased to 14.56 lakh in 2001-2002. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the export of sugar has declined but the hon'ble Minister is saying that it has increased. It has not increased. By saying this, the hon'ble Minister is misleading the House.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the purpose of this Bill is to benefit the farmers. We have brought this Bill after evolving a general consent of the House. I don't want to say more than this as you have to take up other Bills also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please do not interrupt like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.03 hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we have to take up matter under Rule 193. You please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.05 hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that as regards the submission whatever the hon'ble Member has made here and the stay of the hon'ble High Court, my advocate is going there. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not worth telling rather you listen to him, he is giving clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like that the hon'ble Member should given me in writing whatever he has brought to my notice. Whatever is possible in this regard, we will do that and work out the system in the possible manner. The Government are ready to do all those things. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, the hon'ble Minister has assured. You please given him in writing. He has accepted your views. Now you please sit down.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek your permission for one minute to submit that whatever he had said is not true. ...*(Interruptions)*. He is hiding the truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When he had accepted your views then what is use of discussion. You cannot discuss the same issue again. When he had said that you please give him in writing then he will take action; whatever is possible.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the hon'ble Minister in his reply has mentioned about the Court, I would like to place it on record that the Court about which the hon'ble Minister has mentioned is the Supreme Court which had given verdict on 31.10.2001 regarding the issue of sugarcane farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Akhileshji, you please do not repeat your speech. The hon'ble Minister has accepted your point.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has concealed the fact. That is why the hon'ble Supreme Court has served notices of contempt of Court on the Uttar Pradesh Government and the sugar mill owners. All these facts have been brought to the notice of the hon'ble President. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our advocate is going to attend the High Court. The hon'ble Minister should given all the facts.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister has asked for all the facts. I have to take up Rule 193 as decided by you people.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that there should be a control however who will pay the interest if sugar remains in godown even for a day?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has expressed apprehension. I would like to tell him that this release mechanism system has been in practice for the last 30-40 years, and not been devised today only. Our communist colleagues were telling that they were against the decontrol. Their apprehension is not correct.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have not accepted our demand for division on the Bill, so we are walling out of the House.

14.10 hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.)

14.10-1/2 hrs.

THE AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I ask the Minister of Civil Aviation to move the motion for consideration of the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003, I have to inform the House that Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan in a notice addressed to the hon. Speaker has requested to allow him to raise objection before the consideration of this Bill commences. Shri Radhakrishnan has stated that the requirement of two days prior circulation of the Bill should not be waived on a Bill which involves a vital question of policy matter of privatisation.

The Bill was introduced in the House yesterday after the hon. Speaker acceded to the request of the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to waive the requirements of Directions 19A and 19B in view of the reasons stated by the Minister and also circulated to the Members in the Chamber. The Minister had also requested the hon. Speaker to allow the consideration and passing of the Bill after relaxing the requirement of second proviso to Rule 74 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Hon. Speaker has acceded to the request of the Minister. I, therefore, allow the Minister to move the motion for consideration of the Bill.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move-

"That a Bill further to amend the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 be considered."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill is very essential as it will encourage private sector participation and is pending for a long time. Bangalore, Hyderabad international airports are also to be constructed and it is very essential for the private sector investment therein.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a Bill further to amend the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 be considered."

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per today's list of Business the discussion on HPCL and BPCL was to be initiated at two O'clock. How this Bill is being moved. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am taking it after this. This Bill will come in the next Session and not now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Speaker has already announced to take up this Bill for this is an important Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, not now. He has moved the Bill for consideration and it will come in the next Session.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: No, Sir. It is to come in this Session. The Speaker had announced in the morning that after Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill would be taken up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, but now we have to take up discussion under Rule 193. He has already moved the Bill for consideration. In the next Session, it will be the first Bill.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, we have taken up this matter many times. For Delhi and Hyderabad, green-field airports are pending for so many years. The Government of India has announced private participation without passing of this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, it is also possible even tomorrow. You can take it up.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Okay. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is subject to availability of time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I may be permitted to raise my objection. Definitely, the Speaker is all right in giving the decision, but I have a right to raise my objection. I may kindly be heard. My objection has not been heard. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, why are you not listening to my objection? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Having already given the elaborate ruling on this very issue which you have raised, I think, it is improper on your part to raise this objection.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The elaborate ruling is there. I have a right to raise my objection on this matter. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, you can give your decision, but I have a right to raise my objection. That is all I want to say. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, I may be permitted to speak a word about my objection. A notice was given. I had given the notice sufficiently early. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not in the introduction stage.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, I may be heard and then, you can take a decision. Without hearing me, how can you take a decision?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already given the notice.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes, I have given the notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On that basis, the hon. Speaker has given an elaborate ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The question is that I have not given my reasons for objection. I have a right to give my reasons. The Speaker has already given a ruling without hearing me. There is a fundamental principle of law that before you take a decision, I must be heard. I have not been heard. I agree that the decision will prevail. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already given the notice.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: But you have not heard me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your objection is already dealt with. The ruling continues your objection.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, it is fundamental principle of law that I must be heard before taking a decision.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already given your objection.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: No, I have not given reason in my notice. Now, I may be heard. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you were the Speaker of Kerala Assembly. You must know that your objection is not to waive the rules. That is the very rule. He has already given the ruling.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you may kindly hear me. I have only given a notice that I may be permitted to raise my objection. Before hearing me, you cannot give a decision.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tell me 'under what rule?'

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That is the rule of law. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already given the objection. Hon. Speaker has already given the ruling.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I may be kindly heard. Let it go on record. There is one thing that I accept the ruling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not unnecessarily waste the time of the House. Please do not do that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Let it go on record that I have a right to state my objection. Let it be on record.

Sir, my only objection is that I must be heard.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, he is accepting the ruling, but he is expressing his grievance that he was not heard before that. It is over. Now, it is on record.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I may be heard. What I expressed in the House may be heard. That is what I want to say.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever you wanted to say, it has been heard, and it is on record.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You have not heard me. Without hearing me you have given the ruling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has already moved the Bill.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is the hon. Speaker's ruling. What can he do about it?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is a question of policy. Privatisation of companies. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the discussion comes, he can speak. It can come even tomorrow.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You cannot ignore our right.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I may be permitted to speak at the time of the discussion of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that it will be so. It is already there on the record now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I will raise all these objections at that point of time. You should call me.

14.16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters Under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House. Now, we are taking up Discussion Under Rule 193.

(i) Need to provide compensation to the people whose lands have been acquired by Air Force in Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (Sriganganagar): Mr Speaker, Sir, in 1995 Air Force had acquired 4700 acres

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri Nihal Chand Chouhan]

of land in Rawatsar Tehsil of Hanumangarh district under my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan. Since then the Rajasthan Government is not doing any developmental work there for last 8 years. There is no arrangement for providing drinking water in all the villages including the three Panchayat headquarters and the Government is not allowing farmers to construct houses there. The people are in trouble. The Government have itself assessed the estimated cost of the acquired land. The compensation amount for nearly 47000 acre of land has come out at one billion and fifty nine crore rupees which has also been published in the Gazette. The people of that area are disturbed. I urge upon the Central Government to provide compensation amount of the acquired land to all three Panchayats, Ghaghunsar, Moter, Banaras at the earliest so that the people of that area could heave a sigh of relief.

(ii) Need for construction of a dam on Golden bridge between Bharuch and Ankaleshwar in Gujarat.

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): It is extremely essential to construct a dam over Golden bridge between Bharuch and Ankaleshwar under my parliamentary constituency. It is due to the building of a dam over Narmada river that when the level of sea water rises on Anavasya and Purnima, it enters into the villages around Golden bridge. Since the sea water is brackish it damage crops of the villages and the crop yield is declining. The drinking water is also getting brackish that is causing diseases to the people and the sign of disability is getting visible among the people in this area.

Through the House, I would like to submit to the Central Government that there is a dire need to construct a dam between Bharuch and Ankaleshwar so that sea water may not enter into these villages.

(iii) Need to direct the Tea Board to undertake extensive tea plantation in Banspal Block of Keonjhar district, Orissa.

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): A serious situation has arisen in the Banspal area of Orissa due to the closure of the tea garden there. A tea garden started at an investment of three crores at Tarmakant area in that block finally closed down after it fell sick for a few months. The tea garden was started in that area as per the Government's proposal to encourage tea plantation in the non-traditional area. The tea produced in that area was very popular and was mostly exported and it was famous as Tarmakant tea. As many as 500 tribal workers who are earning their daily bread in that tea garden have been thrown out of employment. This has happened at a time when the Tea Board is promoting tea plantation under its 'New Area Development Scheme'. In the interest of the tea industry and the workers depending on tea garden, it is necessary to take over the tea garden by the Government keeping in view the climatic condition and scope for increasing areas under tea plantation.

I, urge upon the Government of India to direct the Tea Board to undertake extensive tea plantation in the Banspal Block in Keonjhar district without further delay with a view to generate employment in that area.

(iv) Need for effective implementation of Malaria Eradication Programme in Lohardaga Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand.

[Translation]

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT (Lohardaga, Jharkhand): I would like to draw attention of the Government towards deaths caused by Malaria every year in my constituency Lohardagga (Jharkhand). Malaria spreads most frequently in this predominant tribal rural area. Neither DDT is being sprayed nor medicines are available in primary dispensaries for controlling Malaria. It has also been observed that tablets provided in dispensaries are not effective. Consequently. hundreds of people die of Malaria every year and measures being taken to check it do not suffice.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to review the steps being taken for controlling Malaria and take stringent action on the basis of review.

(v) Need to complete survey of the proposed broad gauge rail line from Jeypore to Nowrangpur and Jeypore to Malkangiri, Orissa during 2003-2004.

[English]

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI (Nowrangpur): The KBK districts and especially undivided Koraput district endowed with rich mineral and forest resources. But, rail communication is not adequately available to these districts. There has been growing demand for the construction of a 45 kms. broad gauge rail line from

Jeypore to Nowrangpur line is on progress where as no step has been taken to complete the survey of the line from Jeypore to Malkangiri.

Once these lines are constructed the rail communication to the remote areas of undivided Koraput district will be established. Besides, these lines will facilitate the establishment of several mineral, forest and agro-based plants. The economy of the people of these areas will improve.

I, request the Government that the survey of the proposed broad gauge rail line from Jeypore to Nawrangpur and Jeypore to Malkangiri may be completed during 2003-04 so that further steps will be taken for the construction of these small B.G. lines during Tenth Plan period.

(vi) Need to release additional funds to the Government of Karnataka for implementation of Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojna.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): The State Government of Karnataka has proposed enhanced Central funding for urban employment projects under the Swarna Jayanthi Rozgar Yojana. The Karnataka Government has urged for providing at least Rs. 40 crore in additional allocation for the State and has suggested that the guideline limiting 5 per cent spending on Administration and Other Expenditure (A&OE) should be revised to provide additional money for the purpose. The 5 per cent provision was grossly inadequate to meet the A&OE expenses.

The State Government of Karnataka has pointed out that the drastic reduction of allocation for the scheme had adversely affected implementation of various programmes already undertaken on urban poverty alleviation in the State of Karnataka. The Union Urban Development Minister had agreed to provide higher allocation to the State Government of Karnataka for urban employment projects.

Sir, in view of this, I urge upon the Government to kindly make available sufficient funds, as demanded by the State Government of Karnataka, to implement programmes already undertaken under the Swarna Jayanthi Shahari Rozgar Yojna to alleviate the urban poverty in the State of Karnataka.

(vii) Need to appoint adequate Technical and Programme staff at Akashwani, Himmatnagar, Gujarat.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Akashwani Radio Station at Himmatnagar, district Sabarkantha, Gujarat is ready for commencement. However, due to non-appointment of programme staff, the station has not started functioning.

I, request the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to appoint technical and programme staff at Himmatnagar, so that AIR station starts functioning.

(viii) Need for early laying of rail line between Rewa and Mirzapur, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a long standing demand of the people of this area for laying of Rewa-Mirzapur rail line. Laying of this rail line will benefit passengers travelling from Rewa to Mirzapur, Varanasi and Patna immensely. I would also like to add that lime stone is abundantly available in Rewa which is sent to Mirzapur and elsewhere. Laying of this line will not only be commercially useful, it will also help in all round development of Rewa.

Therefore, I urge the Government to issue necessary orders for starting the work on Rewa-Mirzapur rail line.

(ix) Need to set up a medical research centre on the pattern of AIIMS in Tamil Nadu.

[English]

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): The Medical facilities available to general public in Tamil Nadu is of high standard, through the hospitals run by private as well as State Government. But the units run by Central Government is not up to the standard and medical facilities available there need more improvement. However there are number of super speciality hospital under private sector to provide high quality treatment with latest technology in the field. As the cost is very abnormal common men and the poor have no access to such quality treatment. In Pondicherry, JIPMER is the advanced medical research centre established by Government of India. Except this, in Tamil Nadu we have no such medical research centre.

The Health Minister of the Union Government announced in 1999 that super speciality hospital with research centre would be opened in Tamil Nadu. In this connection, State Government and the Madurai district Administration are trying to find a suitable place at Madurai. In the meantime, Health Minister came out with a statement that six medical research centres at par with AIIMS would be established in six States. In the announcement, Tamil Nadu did not find a place. In this

[Shri P. Mohan]
connection, I request that the earlier announcement by Health Minister assuring one such research centre for Tamil Nadu may be implemented along with other six research centres announced later.

(x) Need to take steps to clear the backlog of pending patent cases.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): In our country absence of proper patent scrutiny system has led to a large number of patent cases remaining pending. There are about 45,000 cases waiting clearance. A leading Pharma Company has said that a newly invented malaria drug molecule has been pending with Indian patent office for the last two years. To fight global competition specially in the exclusive marketing rights after 2005, there is a need to set up a strong patent administrative systems and clear the current deadlock at the earliest. The number of patent cases cleared in India as compared to other countries is quite meager.

I, request the Government to pay proper attention to this matter and strengthen the patent offices with sufficient manpower and infrastructure and upgradation of technology so that the backlog is cleared at the earliest and patent scrutiny work is done expeditiously and patents granted to the applicants at the earliest to fight global competition.

(xi) Need to open a Central School in Kheri District, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, in absence of a Central School in my Parliamentary Constituency Kheri, U.P. the children of employees working in Central Public Sector Undertakings are facing great problems. The education of these children is adversely affected as the standard of education in this district is below desired level. It is also affecting the working capacity of said employees badly.

Therefore, I urge the Government to open a Central School in Kheri immediately.

(xii) Need to provide a railway crossing at Jalabgaon in Himayatnagar Tehsil in Hingoli Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last several years I have been demanding for construction of a railway crossing on Murkhed-Adilabad rail line at Jalabgaon in Himayatnagar Tehsil in district Nanded under my parliamentary constituency Hingoli and district administration has to obtain permission of the Central Government. People face great difficulty while travelling from this area to trans-rail-line area and farmers have to travel 20 kms extra distance for taking sugarcane to market and sugarmills which takes more time and causes economic loss in the form of more consumption of diesel. Earlier, a railway crossing existed at this place but, I do not know why it has been closed.

In view of the above, I urge the Government to direct the Railways to construct a railway crossing at this place immediately so that difficulties faced by the people can be done away with.

(xiii) Need to permit candidates to take the Preliminary Test for Civil Services Examination in any of the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

[English]

SHRI P. KUMARASAMY (Palani): Every year Union Public Service Commission conducts Civil Services examinations for selecting candidates for various services like IAS, IPS etc. This examination has three stages namely preliminary, main, personality test. Of these three stages, languages listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution are allowed as medium only in main examination and personality test. In the preliminary examination only English and Hindi are allowed as the medium of examination. The preliminary examination is crucial because, only those who qualify this, are permitted to appear in the Main examination. Out of the about 1.5 lakh candidates who had appeared in the preliminary examination, 2002, only 3,483 candidates qualified for the main examinations. Candidates, particularly from the South and North East who had their education in their mother tongues such as Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam etc. find it extremely difficult to get through the Preliminary examination. Even every talented candidates who have excelled academically are unable to make it to the Civil Services because of this handicap. If they could be allowed to appear in their mother tongue in two stages of the examination, there is no reason why they should be denied the opportunity to appear in the Preliminary Examination in their mother tongue.

I request the Government to allow candidates to take the Preliminary test in any of the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

(xiv) Need to implement the recommendations of the Sardar Singh Johal Committee on diversification of the Agricultural Sector.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda): The Sardar Singh Johal committee was constituted to go into the

issue of crop diversification regarding the agricultural sector and suggest its recommendations on All India basis taking into consideration all the details in the States.

The Committee has after due consideration submitted its report to Government. But the Central Government has not taken any action on this report or if taken at all no body knows anything about that.

I, would therefore, like to draw the attention of the concerned Ministry to take appropriate steps for taking necessary actions on the report. It has become more important in view of the launching to Tenth Plan which has already been published and also in view of the declared goal of achievement in agricultural sector.

(xv) Need to accord 'Group D' status to the coolies of railways.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN (Rosera): Thousands of coolies have been working at all the railway stations since railway started functioning. They belong to the weakest section of society. During 1996-97, the then Minister of Railways took some measures in the interest of coolies, which included the provision of woollen cloth, retiring rooms and free second class railway pass. But they have not been provided family pass and medical facilities etc.

I request hon. Minister of Railways to grant Group 'D' status to coolies. They should be provided family pass and arrangements should be made for their children's education.

14.17 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

(i) Disinvestment of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the discussion regarding Disinvestment of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has been admitted in the names of Shri Basudeb Acharia and Shri Prabodh Panda.

Shri Basudeb Acharia has requested the hon. Speaker to allow Shri Somnath Chatterjee to raise the discussion on his behalf. The hon. Speaker has since acceded to the request of Shri Basudeb Acharia.

Now, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the proposed privatisation and sale of HPCL and BPCL, according to us, will be an act of monumental perfidy against the people of this country by this political aberration called NDA. It will be against the national interest to lose them. So far as the country is concerned, they are our own assets, the people's assets. They are vital profit making undertakings.

14.18 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

Sir, I cannot recall any other Government in the past showing such a effrontery towards the people, and callous disregard to strong public opinion expressed in this House and outside against the proposed privatisation of these two vital undertakings.

Sir, we feel that it is our patriotic duty to oppose this sinister move of bartering away national assets to cater to the dictates and whims of some of their friends both within and outside this country. Sir, for the benefit of a handful of people or concerns, mostly outside this country, the interest of 100 crores of people of this country are being prejudiced today. Therefore, I appeal to every section of this House, in spite of the Government's adamant attitude, particularly to the allies of NDA, to BJP here, to ponder over the matter. I believe, the commitment of the hon. Members of this House to national interest is on trial. They will be judged by the action they take here inside. Their patriotic sense of duty is at stake today. They will have to justify the people's faith in them, when they are elected to this House.

Sir, we have said earlier also and I must repeat that this is nothing but loot and plunder of valuable national assets. These have been called *'Navratnas'*, jewels of the country. They were given the description because of the glorious record of these undertakings in the service of the country. They have more than justified themselves, since they were established. I, again, request all the Members of this House and the allies of the B.J.P that they should rise to the occasion and not surrender to the anti-national activities of the major party. Again and again, people are asking, "Why these important undertakings

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are being privatised? What is the policy of this Government? Why are profit-making units being sold, in many cases for a song?" In this case, a special question has arisen as to the right of the Government to do it by an executive decision bypassing the Legislature.

Sir, I must point out for record that both these undertakings came into being as national undertakings because of the Acquisition of Undertakings Acts passed respectively in 1974 for ESSO and in 1976 for Burma Shell. These were very important legislations, I have no manner of doubt, and Shri Vajpayee admitted that he had voted for them in 1974 and 1976. Why? The experience of the 1971-War was known to us. The then Government realised the great risk this country was undergoing, if important concerns supplying extremely important raw-materials like petrol, diesel and other items were left in the hands of the foreign company to be decided by them, to suit their own interest and not the national interests of India or the people of India. That is why, deliberately and with acclamation and national acceptance, both these undertakings were acquired by the Government of India.

The Preambles reads that it is expedient in the public interest that undertaking in India, the Esso Eastern Incorporated, should be acquired in order to ensure "that the ownership and control of the petroleum products-not mere availability of petroleum products-distributed and marketed in India by the said Company are vested in the State." It says that not merely distribution rights, but the whole undertaking, ownership and control of these products, should be vested in the State" and thereby so distributed as best to subserve the common good.

Sir, preamble indicates the policy of the legislation. I do not know if Shri Shourie has got a Law degree but I know that he is more than a lawyer. He will say, 'Well, it is preamble.' ...*(Interruptions)* You will not say that? Very good! Then I need not go into that. Then he will say that the preamble expresses the intention of this legislation that had been adopted by this House. It says that the undertaking, with all its assets, liabilities, rights and interests vests in the Central Government.

The objective of this legislation is clear. HPCL and BPCL came into existence as public sector undertakings because of the Acquisition of Undertakings Act. They are now parts of national assets. They are very important public sector undertakings as had been decided by this law. The only thing now is that they have tried to find out some sort of a loophole. They say, 'Well, it has now been vested in the Government company.' What does the law say? It says:

> "Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 3, 4 and 5, the Central Government may if it is satisfied that a Government company is willing to comply, or has complied, with such terms and conditions as that Government may think fit to impose, direct, by notification, that the right, title and interest and the liabilities of Esso in relation to any undertaking in India shall, instead continuing to vest in the Central Government, vest in the Government company..."

Every right and liability has to be undertaken by the Government company. It is being said as if the whole intention of the preamble can be given a go by or the whole basis of the nationalisation goes away because consciously the Government has decided for running the institution as a company then as a Government Department. Obviously, a Government Department cannot run and manage a concern like this. It is said that ultimately it may have to be given to a Government company. Why to a Government company? It is because a Government company will fulfil the objectives of this Act.

Sir, section 7, sub-section (2) of the Act says:

> "...the Government company shall, on and from the date of such vesting, be deemed to have become the owner, tenant or lessee, as the case may be, in relation to such undertakings, and all the rights and liabilities of the Central Government in relation to such undertaking shall, on and from the date of such vesting, be deemed to have become the rights and liabilities, respectively, of the Government company."

The right of the Government here is to maintain it, run it; and the liability is to see that the national interest does not suffer. The law has given that important function to the Government to run these entities as parts of our national assets and national endeavour.

So far as the transfer of services of the employees is concerned, they will become the employees of the Government company under statute and remain so until their tenure is determined according to law. The old companies had certain trust funds. As you know, gratuity and provident fund trusts, etc., are there. Shri Shouri is well aware of similar provisions. It has been said in section 10, sub-section (3) of the Act that:

"The Government company in which the undertakings of Esso in India are directed to be vested shall, as soon as may be after the date of vesting, constitute, in respect of the monies and other assets which are transferred to and vested in it under this section, one or more trusts having objects as similar to the objects of the existing trusts as in the circumstances may be practicable..."

Even the Government companies have to constitute trusts for the benefit of these workers. What will happen to these?

There is a non-obstante clause in section 11 which says that it will have an operation irrespective of any other Act or any other law or agreement or instrument.

Well, a similar law was passed with regard to Burma Shell in the year 1976, and ultimately it was given to BPCL which is a Government company now.

Now, the question-which has been raised in this House earlier also-arises is that whether a body which came into existence initially because of the Act of Parliament and which, under the provisions of the Act has been given to a Trust, Government company for the purpose of running it as a part of the national asset, can be disposed of without the amendment of provisions or the decision of the Parliament of India. This question was raised, I believe, very pertinently.

Now, I shall come to the other thing. Opinion has been given. Some of us are very humble persons, who are not as well-versed as our distinguished hon. Minister of Disinvestment is. Opinion has been given by no less persons than three retired Judges of the Supreme Court, namely, Justice Krishna Iyer, Justice Chinappa Reddy, Justice P.B. Sawant, who were the most celebrated and renowned Judges. We all respect them. Then, Justice Rajender Sachar, the retired Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court and Shri Shanti Bhushan a very senior Advocate have also very categorically said:

"Preamble itself clearly spells out the legislative policy of the enactment and the objective of the nationalisation, and that the Government's decision to privatise HPCL or BPCL without amending the Acts or without approval of Parliament, will be clearly unconstitutional. The scheme of the enactment by which the oil companies were nationalised is absolutely clear. It mandates the oil distribution business to be divested in the State though it can be through a Government company..."

This is what I am also stressing. Then, they further said:

"In our opinion, the oil PSUs could only be privatised by means of expressed Parliamentary enactment by either amending the earlier Act or by bring in a new Act and repealing the earlier Acts. The Government's decision is against the constitutional propriety and supremacy of Parliament. It would be absure to suggest that the Government could undo the Parliamentary mandate by just selling the shares to the Government company and then privatising it."

Sir, I do not think that any one of these gentlemen can be called that they are terrorists or anti-national people. They have given their views, and obviously none of them has any personal interest, I take it.

Now, the requests from the Members of Parliament are not being accepted, various opinions have come out. I do not want to take the time of the House. But then, it was said by Shri Prashant Bhushan also in his article, which is a very well-considered article, expressing similar views. I do not want to read it out, But I adopt it.

Sir, there is a letter written to the hon. Prime Minister, I find, by 71 lawyers of the Supreme Court in which they have expressed similar views stating that "the constitutional propriety demands that the company created out of the Parliamentary decision should not be bartered away, keeping the national interest and propriety."

As against this, we are told, more through newspapers, and I believe the hon. Minister has said that the Attorney-General has given a clear message. Sir, I do not know of any provision of the Constitution which says that the Attorney-General's opinion of message is *ipso facto* binding on the Parliament of India. It cannot be. But, we are, nowadays, seeing it happening. Although I belong to the same fraternity; once I was also a Government lawyer. But I have never seen such Government lawyers of high stature changing their opinions suiting the Government policies for the time being. The classic example of the very same Attorney General, changing his opinion, is in the Telecom case which has brought the entire fraternity to question.

If they are so clear of their popular support and here in the Parliament and of their legal position, why do not they bring it here? Why is not a law passed? Then they will have the Parliament's mandate. Even we cannot get a discussion under Rule 184. I had given a notice for a discussion under rule 184 which would have resulted

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]
in voting. The hon. Speaker, in his wisdom, has not admitted it. Why was it allowed to be discussed under rule 193? The Government itself should have invited a discussion under rule 184. If they are so sure of their merits, they should have allowed a discussion under rule 184.

Sir what is HPCL and what is BPCL? Why are we so much against this proposal? It is important to note this. I want to have it on record properly. The turnover of BPCL over the past few years had been Rs. 42,294 crore, and the excise duty paid was Rs. 10,513 crore. The turnover of HPCL had been Rs. 45,286 crore, and the excise duty and tax paid were Rs. 11,246 crore. The turnover of these two companies, during the last few years, had been Rs. 87,580 crore, and the excise duty paid was Rs. 21,759 crore. Are these the pittances? As against this, what is the position of the coveted *navaratnas* of the Government? These *navaratnas* are Reliance, Grasim, Bajaj Auto, Tata Steel, Sterlite, Colgate Palmolive, L&T, Raymand and Glaxo. The total turnover of these nine companies is Rs. 88,157 crore which is Rs. 1,000 crore more than those two companies. How much excise and tax have these nine companies paid over these years? It is Rs. 6840 crore as against Rs. 21,759 crore of those two companies. Are they mal-functioning companies? Are these companies not doing their duties? Are they not performing well?

Sir, the net profit of BPCL last year was Rs. 850 crore. The fixed assets of BPCL was Rs. 9,722 crore, and that of HPCL was Rs. 10,224 crore. The cash reserves of BPCL were Rs. 3,700 crore, and that of HPCL were Rs. 5,946 crore.

Take the example of BPCL. In 1991-92, its net profit was Rs. 148.46 crore. After contributing Rs. 1,876 crore to the exchequer by way of taxes paid, it had a profit of Rs. 148.46 crore in 1991-92. In 2001-02, the profit rose from Rs. 148 crore to Rs. 835 crore. The contribution to the exchequer rose from Rs. 1876 crore, to Rs. 10,513 crore. I cannot think of any other company which has performed in such a brilliant way. It has been providing huge sums to the national exchequer. Apart from showing contribution for the development of infrastructure in this country, it is providing jobs to 26,000 people in this country. Twenty six thousand families are saved because of this. The education for their children has been provided; their development is taken care of; the whole families are protected because of this. It is not a small number. At the same time, the performance of this Government in employment sector is well known! Even the hon. Prime Minister is hesitant to spell out the figures of employment.

What is the crime committed by these companies? BPCL has planned an investment outlay of Rs. 6880 crore in the Ninth Plan Period; the net internal generation of it will be Rs. 1600 crore. It envisaged a 6-million tonne Bina Refinery in Madhya Pradesh and a 7-million tonne refinery in Uttar Pradesh. Three international majors have shown interest in BPCL's proposal to set up a petrochemical project in Tamil Nadu.

So far as pipeline is concerned, they are laying pipelines for the supply of oil from Mumbai refinery to Manmad to Indore. These projects are to provide employment to thousands of workers directly and to lakhs of people indirectly in different States.

BPCL has 54 per cent holding in Kochi Refinery and owns majority shareholding in Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. By privatising or disinvesting BPCL, the Government is killing a profit-making, employment-oriented oil PSU. HPCL, during 1998-99, incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1705 crore which includes investment in Joint Venture projects. Thirteen new depots were created. Very many projects they have undertaken for the pipeline business, which have already added or will further add tremendously to the available infrastructure in this country.

I am happy to find that these oil companies have been continuously engaged in developing villages, apart from their contribution in development of sports, education and other different spheres. What will happen to these now?

The opinion of the Parliamentary Standing Committee had been ignored. What is the method of dealing with them or to get rid of them? I am appealing to all the hon. Members here. Please forget the party line for the time being; at least for one day, let us forget it. Who will benefit because of this? It is not Somnath Chatterjee or CPI (M) which will benefit. It is the people of this country for whom we are talking will benefit. I am sure all of you are interested in this. I am not claiming special credit for me or for my Party. Therefore, please just see what is the method decided by this Government.

In the case of BPCL, the Government is to divest 35.2 per cent equity in domestic and overseas market; employees are to get five per cent on concessional terms; the Government is to retain 26 per cent. Therefore, 74 per cent go and 35.2 per cent equity will be sold. In the case of HPCL, the Government is to divest 26 per cent go strategic partners. Why is this difference in the methods?

A favourite person of the present Government, Shri G.V. Ramakrishna-I do not know why they do not call him a favourite person-who was the former Chairman of the Disinvestment Commission, has also asked as to why that difference was made. Over and above, the most important decision is that our PSUs will not be allowed to bid for that. ONGC cannot bid for it; IOC cannot bid for it. Why can they not bid? IBP was allowed; IOC took it over. The decision of the Government is this. They must go either to one or two rich Indian people-you can count them with your fingers and you know who are the real intended beneficiaries-or to the foreigners.

We have seen in the newspapers. I would like the hon. Minister to take this House as well as the country into confidence and tell us which are the concerns which have either shown interest or he expects them to show interest. Let us know it. We know, what has happened to IPCL. Everybody in this country knows the way IPCL has been sold. Instead of a public monopoly, the Government has created a private monopoly. But for one concern, they have become all-powerful emperors of the petrochemical industry in this country.

We have seen that the hon. Minister of Petroleum has the distinction of representing the largest constituency in this House but he has now become a pygmy. On certain occasions, he watches up and makes noises and again goes to slumber, as he is now. Then we have the celebrated convenor of NDA. It appears he also raises doubts. Then there was some hibernation. Everybody was shouting. Even their allies were shouting. Well, let us see. It will die out.

One day, the Prime Minister calls all of them and admonishes them, I do not know. The Headmaster said what to whom, I do not know. But it had its effect. Either you are in or out, depending on that. Then came another peroration in the form of a statement from our distinguished Disinvestment Minister. I do not want to repeat it. Everybody laughs at it. Ours is a unique country in the world where we have a Minister of Disinvestment. You have the Ministers of Industry, Employment, etc. but we have the unique distinction. I am sure the Guinness Book has a record of it. He had said: "yes, we had a meeting". It was a fateful day for this country, namely, 6th December, 2002. The meeting was held somewhere in the Prime Minister's house and some decisions were taken. For what? It says: "This is to fine-tune the Disinvestment policy". This is a proof of how English language is so useful, at certain times, to cover up certain things. So, this was to fine-tune disinvestment policy and programme by adopting the following approach. The main objective of disinvestment is to put national resources and assets to optimal use. What will be the greater optimal use so far as these two companies are concerned. I am requesting all my friends here to tell us, to educate us, as to what will be the optimal use so far as these two concerns are involved. The objective in particular is to unleash the productive potential inherent in our public sector enterprises, to further the productive potential interests. Let us know, did you call them. Did you call the management of these two concerns and ask them to further unleash their productive potential element inherent in these enterprises? Did they not rise to the occasion? What was the standard you had laid for them? What are your further expectations from them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, you have already taken half an hour. How much more time do you require?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Until I finish my speech. I will try to cooperate.

What are the aims of this fine-tuning? They are, modernisation and upgradation of public sector enterprises. These are your words, Shri Shourie. Shri Ram Naik has thoroughly failed; you have failed to modernise and upgrade these two *navratnas.* Were they asked to create new assets? How are you ensuring further generation of employment by selling away these two important undertakings?

Now comes the real thing-retiring of public debt. This is the real matter. You have brought this country into bankruptcy. There is highest amount of public debt. The economy is stagnating and there is no generation of resources. Where will the employment come from? Forget about the Government sector, you do not have any employment in other sectors also. Recession is overtaking us. Then, how would the sale of these two undertakings generate employment? Therefore, you want money to square up your budget deficit and you have been saying that. I think, for the first time, this year my good friend, Shri Jaswant Singh has not given any assessment of how many crores of rupees he will get from privatisation. You have to cut your coat according to the cloth you have. Just because you cannot find out resources to pay off your public debt, you will sell off these important public undertakings.

I would like to know what crime they have committed. What indiscretion have they committed? What anti-national activity or anti-commercial activity have they done that you have selected these two profit-making units?

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Then you have further said:

> "The Government would continue to ensure that disinvestment does not result in alienation of national assets, which through the process of disinvestment, remain where they are. It will also ensure that disinvestment does not result in private monopolies."

If these two companies are sold, what remains? How can you prevent almost private monopoly if these two companies go to one industrialist? Who knows who would ultimately get them? Even the House has not been taken into confidence how you select your consultant and how the strategic partner is selected. What voice does Parliament have? The Standing Committee has no voice. No Committee of Parliament has any voice. It is never discussed on the floor of the House and not even leaders of the parties are called and told about this. There is no amount of parliamentary association in the process of selecting the methodology of the sale and disposal of these important public undertakings. I am charging you that as you have done in IPCL, the sale of these two will actually result in private monopoly and this will go to foreigners. Then, this country will be totally at the mercy of foreigners and concerns who are already showing their red eyes. Some countries think that they are the protector of the humanity in this world. We have recently seen how a country lost its independence. How their country was decimated by this power hungry country in this world. You cannot surrender to them. This is going to happen. Therefore, I would like to know which are the companies that are showing interest or whom you expect to show interest. These are huge companies.

Then, your Statement talks of sop although the Disinvestment Commission had said it long time back. It says:

> "In order to provide complete visibility of the Government's continued commitment of utilisation of disinvestment proceeds for social and infrastructure sectors, the Government would set up a Disinvestment Proceeds Fund. The Fund will be used for financing fresh employment opportunities and investment, and for retirement of public debts."

This is another joke played on the country.

For the disinvestment of natural asset companies, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Disinvestment will work together.

The statement further says, 'the Ministry of Finance will also prepare for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment a paper on the feasibility and modalities of setting up an Asset Management Company'. Everything is being proposed to be done in future and nothing has been done so far.

Sir, the statement again says, with these objectives as the guiding principle, the Government has taken the following specific decisions:

- To disinvest through sale of shares to the public in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL);
- To disinvest in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) through strategic sale.
- To allot 5 per cent of the shares to the employees.

Sir, I have great personal respect for the hon. Minister of Disinvestment. But his transformation is very painful. Once he was somebody whose writings we used to avidly look forward to reading but now he has got totally transformed. You can now think of Dr. Jekyel and Mr. Hyde.

Sir, therefore, modernisation and upgradation of public enterprises, creation of new assets, generation of employment and retiring of public debt are the four policies. How, by sale of these two undertakings, will the Government achieve these policies except that of retirement of public debt? Therefore, the decision of the Parliament to expressly nationalise the two foreign oil companies, who had dubious role during the 1971 conflict, is being nullifed by the Executive fiat without taking the assent of Parliament and without bringing in any new policy and without having the matter considered deeply, as if we all are anti-national people and all the repository of patriotism and of good intention is in the Ministry of Disinvestment headed by this motley combination. We cannot be a party to it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just now referred to an article by Shri G.V. Ramakrishna. He has asked a pertinent query as to why two different methods have been adopted. He has asked a very important question that I have already mentioned and I would like to repeat it again. Why are other PSUs not being allowed to participate in the bidding? He says, 'by creating a monopoly in the petrochemical sector, that is by sale of IPCL to M/s Reliance, now on the grounds of market strength, ONGC is not allowed to bid for HPCL although ONGC's share of refining even after acquisition of MRPL

and HPCL will be less than the capacity of a single private sector refinery. Now, the ONGC is not allowed to bid for HPCL on the ground that a public sector company should not participate in disinvestment'. Will they be disinvested by themselves? It further says, 'the logic of this is far from clear. IOC was allowed to bid for IBP and Government got a good bid from IOC for IBP. Close on the heels of this decision, there is the decision to allow ONGC and GAIL to bid for EIL'. Unless of course they have changed it. He further goes on to say, 'that this flip flop policy has confused a number of people who are otherwise sympathetic to the whole process'. He further says, 'PSUs only want the freedom to bid and not a nominated purchase. They will get the company only if their bid is higher than the others. Stopping PSUs from bidding will enable private parties to make lower bids and will lower the Government recovery and help in handing over the PSUs at a low price to private parties'. Why does the Government avoid competition there?

No reason has been forthcoming for that. He says, 'why should HPCL be sold to a private party through a strategic sale and BPCL sold directly to the public? Why not there is uniformity in sale of shares in both the cases and avoid creation of private fiefdom by retaining residual share of 26 per cent. Both in the case of VSNL and Centaur Hotel, shareholder agreements-it is rightly believed-were not properly drawn.

15.00 hrs.

The Centaur case is well known to you. Within a few months they made a profit of Rs. 34 crore. These two undertakings are being shabbily treated like this. The Parliament is being shabbily treated. Important opinions are being ignored. The Government has not got the courage to face Parliament and seek a vote. At this stage, let us have this much of satisfaction that at least we could say something.

Shri G.V. Ramakrishna further says as follows. He is their man and I am only reminding them what he has said:

> "It is understood that owing to faulty shareholders' agreements and sale agreements, even after sale, the buyers are asking for partial refund of sale price on the ground of hidden losses in the case of Modern Foods, HTL and Paradeep Phosphates. If this is correct, the Ministry should explain why they did not take care of in the first place to protect government's interest."

As you know, BALCO has got the judicial blessing from the highest court. That has encouraged them further, though for wrong reasons. The position is that BALCO is showing its true colours and they are dismissing people.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): *The Times of India* has categorically said that BALCO is nicely working. So, please do not mislead the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I did not know that *The Times of India* was so good! I thought it was only *Samna* that was good. Very good; *Samna* is equal to *The Times of India.*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: *Samna* is far better than *The Times of India.*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The other important thing about it is that apart from utilising them for meeting the public debt or the budget deficit, what action has so far been taken for creation of infrastructure by the Government with the proceeds of disinvestment? We have been asking this question and in the earlier debate also we asked this question. But nothing has been forthcoming. How many employees who have been dismissed have been redeployed after the sale?

Earlier, there was a Renewal Fund, which became a flop. Thereafter, the Disinvestment Proceeds Fund has been set up. How much is the total money in this Fund? How much money has been utilised and for what purpose? How much money are you expecting from the sale of this two companies? How do you propose to use them? Will they not go to the Consolidated Fund of India? It is bound to go to it. By a mere statement you cannot stop it from going to the Consolidated Fund of India. Then, where is the appropriation for this Fund? I do not know whether there is appropriation. Please correct me if I am wrong. We would like to know how you have done it.

This is precisely the fear that has been expressed by the Standing Committee on Finance. I have no doubt, the members of the ruling combination are in majority there. They have given a unanimous Report. They have expressed their serious reservations about several things-about the method of sale, about the asset evaluation, about the utilisation of disinvestment proceeds, etc. These are very important issues which have been mentioned here. They have also expressed their reservations with regard to qualification and disqualification of bidders. These are all in the Report of the Standing Committee.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

They have also said that the guidelines are also not being followed in many cases. Apart from this, of course, there is a very important issue of employees welfare. This is also not according to your linking and, therefore, you do not refer to it and you do not follow the recommendations of the Standing Committee at all. You put up a fund and then do whatever you like. This is a clear affront to the people of this country. Therefore, I would like to know why this different method is being followed and who are the persons interested in it. So far, there has been no transparency and no disclosure.

I would request all our friends here to oppose this disinvestment as this is one of the most anti-national methods which has been adopted by this Government. It is not only that I oppose it but the 26,000 workers and their family members are also opposing it. The entire working class of this country is opposing it and all right-thinking members of the society are totally against the sale of these two Undertakings. I am not going into disinvestment in general. Earlier, I have said that I am not opposed to disinvestment *per se*. There should be proper approaches to be followed in this matter. But if these are sold away in the manner in which it has been threatened, then we shall reach the nadir of public probity. Therefore, I oppose it tooth and nail.

Before I take my seat, I appeal once again to everybody here to rise above party lines and come to think of the future of this country. These two important jewels of the Indian crown are sold away to suit the interests and whims of a few people who are in close contact with the ruling party.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Since I was to follow Shri Somnath Chatterjee, a great exponent of disinvestment, the main Opposition leader to speak against disinvestment, I listened to him with rapt attention. As usual, this has become a *karmakanda*. As usual, he used words like 'monumental perfidy, political aberration, sinister move, etc.' He uses them always. If you go through his previous speeches, you may find that it is repetition and the same record is being played over again and again. He also said that this disinvestment process is a great anti-national activity; this country will be in the hands of foreigners; and this country will lose its independence. At the time of the demolition of Babri structure these were the people who said that if Babri Masjid was going to be demolished, Third World War will start. He also talked about patriotism. If hon. Members from Shiv Sena talk about patriotism, I could understand it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Sir, I take serious objection to his reference of the demolition of Babri Masjid. ...*(Interruptions)* It was not a laudable method and it is nothing to be proud of. He can say whatever he feels like in a debate against Shri Somnath Chatterjee, but he should not attack the secular structure of the Constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, we are debating on disinvestment.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: When hon. Members of Shiv Sena talk about patriotism, I could understand it. But it is very interesting to hear about patriotism from a Party which had divided its own Party in 1963 on the basis of supporting China.

It was an aggressor at that time. He made several very interesting points. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, he spoke about the whole basis of nationalisation which has gone awry. Exactly, that is my point also. What was the point in going for nationalisation? That was done in 1971. At that time, nobody, no private party came forward to set up big industries. They did not have money. It was the Government which wanted to provide, to create and to generate employment opportunities to the people. So, the Government wanted to set up industries. Is the situation same now? Now, the private industries, the private parties have come forward in a very big way to set up the industries. So, when there was no other alternative, then the Government had no other option but to go in for this. But when there is an alternative available for the Government, is it the business of the Government to do business? This is my question.

There are about 224 public sector units under the control of the Government of India. The Government of India has invested about Rs. 2,79,000 crores. The return is 3.5 per cent only. What is the interest that we are paying on that investment? It is 12 per cent. So, on every hundred rupees, we are losing 8.5 per cent every year. Is it the way of providing jobs to only about 19 lakh people of this country? So, my point is that the country requires roads, safe drinking-water, infrastructure like power, health care and everything. Is it not the responsibility of this Government to provide all those basic necessities to the people? For providing those facilities, from where will the Government get the money? So, it is the right policy of the Government just to take out the money which has got stuck up with the public sector undertakings, most of which we are running on a loss to

provide for employment opportunities by creating in frastructure.

Wherever I have gone in the world, I have found that it is the creation of infrastructure that has generated employment opportunities and it is not by just providing a job in the Government sector.

Sir, he mentioned about China also. China is the *guru* of all the Communists. Let them go and see for themselves what is happening in China. China has disinvested about three lakh public sector undertakings within five to ten years only. A point was raised. The hon. Minister is there and he will reply to this because I am not privy to all the details. But as a common man, from my common sense, I will raise two or three points.

A point was raised that with regard to disinvestment of the BPCL and the HPCL, why the Government has not come to Parliament to pass a law. Is it not a fact that 49 per cent of the equity of the HPCL has already been disinvested? Is it not true that 33 per cent of the equity of the BPCL has already been disinvested? Have all these things been disinvested with the approval of Parliament? This is my question. If you have already gone in for disinvestment, why are you asking the Government to come to Parliament to pass a law now? This is my question. So, I hope that the hon. Members who will be just speaking after me would also raise this question and they would think over it. Is it not a fact that the 33 per cent equity and 49 per cent equity of the BPCL and the HPCL have already been disinvested without the approval of this Parliament?

The hon. Member will go into the other details and ask what happened to other things. My point is this.

Now, the second point which was raised was that it is a strategic sector. Is it a strategic sector? The Government has already declared atomic energy, railways and defence as the three strategic sectors of this country. We agree to this. If we go on including all the sectors, then we can also in a way say that food is also a strategic sector. So, all the land should belong to the Government because without food, we will starve. We can associate the word 'strategic' with all sort of things. A question was asked if there is a war, and in case the oil companies are in the hands of the private parties, what would happen to us? They will not provide us oil at the time of war and the Indian Army will get defeated. That is the reason why in the year 1971 Smt. Indira Gandhi resorted to the nationalization of these oil companies. This question was also asked to many experts from the Army. The Army experts have said that they have a reserve for ninety days. In the present day world of globalisation, no war-I repeat, no war-continues for more than fifteen days. You saw the result in Iraq itself. Everybody was very happy from the very beginning that the war will continue for a long time and there will be hand to hand fighting and all sorts of things were told, but it completed within some ten to twelve days. There shall be no war in this world in future that will continue for more than fifteen days. To say that it is a strategic sector, the country will lose its independence, and we will be in the hands of the foreigners, are very far-fetched things. We have also passed the Competition Bill. We are talking that the private companies will become monopolies. How can they be monopolies? Section 4 of the Competition Bill lays down "prohibition of abuse of dominant position of a person or a company in the market". So, we have a law in the country. If anybody resorts to monopolistic behaviour, it is the Monopolies Commission which can intervene, and through this Commission the Government can also intervene. Fifty-five per cent of the retail distribution network today is with the Indian Oil Corporation. The Indian Oil Corporation, the ONGC, GAIL, all these companies are also with the Government. So, how can we lose the Independence of this country only by disinvesting two oil companies? How many oil companies will be there with the Government? That is why, it is absolutely far-fetched to say that if two companies go to the private hands, the country will lose its Independence.

I have also heard that a Petroleum Regulatory Bill is going to be introduced by the Government may be in this Session or in the next Session. If it is introduced, then I think like the Telecom Regulatory Authority or the Insurance Regulatory Authority, naturally the Commission will also look into this monopoly aspect.

Sir, I would like to put forth one more very important point and conclude. All the time we are asked as to why profit-making public sector undertakings are disinvested., What does it mean by profit-making public sector undertakings? When were they making profit? They were making profit when they were under the monopoly of the Government. Once upon a time, Maruti and Steel Authority of India were also profit-making companies when there was no competition. But in today's globalished world, when there is very stiff competition, will it be possible for a Government company to compete with private companies and earn profit? Everybody in this House knows that quick decision-making is essential to survive in today's highly competitive world and the Government machinery

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

is such that it will not at all be possible for a public sector undertaking to compete with private companies.

For example, in the monsoon season, if you go to the Taj Hotel where the occupancy rate is very low and you ask them to give 50 per cent concession in room charges, immediately the Manager of the Taj Hotel will say all right. But if you go to Ashok Hotel and ask the same thing there, the Manager there will say that the CBI, the Vigilance Department and the Audit Department will be after him and so he will say that he would send the file to his superior. By the time the file goes to his superior and comes back, the monsoon season will be over and the next season will start. This is the way the Government machinery works and this is the reason why the Government will never be a successful entrepreneur.

So, finally, I appeal to the Government of India that they should be very firm on this matter. They have introduced economic reforms in this country and without economic reforms, the country will not be able to prosper. If we keep following the old ideas, we will never become a successful country economically. So, let us not change the horse midstream. Once we have introduced the reforms let us be very firm. We should see that these reforms succeed.

Sir, the hon. Minister should protect the interests of the employees. This is the most important thing because for good or bad they are used to this set up. So, the Government should see that they do not lose their jobs. They have not lost their jobs in Paradip Phospates Limited in Orissa. Within three months of privatisation, Paradip Phospates Limited tripled its production and more than Rs. 12,000 was paid to the employees per annum. Prior to privatisation, they were not getting their salaries for $1^1/_2$ years.

Therefore, finally I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Disinvestment that they should stick to the principle, they should not listen to all the motivated opposition and they should stick to the policies which they have promised to follow.

*SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participation in this discussion on Disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL. Sir, it is strange to observe the ways of this Government to change its strategy in its strategic disinvestment of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation. The entire nation is worried about the changing stance of this Government. That is why towards the fag end of this Budget Session, we witness a discussion in this august House on this important issue.

Sir, the great Tamil Saint poet Thiruvalluvar had said that you venture to anything after giving due through otherwise it would be inappropriate to seek to think over after commencing the act. In his couplet,

"Enni thuniga karumam thuninthapin
Ennuvam enpathu ilukku."

He had rightly chided the fickle mindedness of the rulers. What is happening at the Centre? Just before the Winter Session last year, the news came that both HPCL and BPCL will be divested. Later on it was clarified that it may not be disinvested fully but only partly. It was stated that just a certain percentage of shares will be off loaded. News also came to the extent that both foreign companies and Indian oil majors would be permitted to take part in the bid. Further to it, it was stated that one of them would be privatised and in the other one just share off loading will be carried out. It was also in the news that ONGC would take over the operations of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. News contradicting this also came in the press later stating that ONGC would be barred from bidding. In the meantime, ONGC, the only oil company that would have ensured integrated oil production by way of drilling crude oil and processing it and marketing it, invested in the infrastructure development. It had obtained permission for operating more than 600 petroleum retail outlets. The Mangalore Petroleum Refinery was got readied. But, suddenly, the decision of the Disinvestment Ministry prevented ONGC from participating in the bidding. It is noteworthy to point out that Indian Oil Corporation was already barred from participating in the bid.

Both BPCL and HPCL were created by Acts of Parliament. The foreign oil companies that were operating in the country with the brand name ESSO, Caltex and Burma Shell were taken over the Government of India. Through special enactments between the years 1974 and 1976 the nationalisation process of these Oil Companies were completed. Solemn assurances were given to the Parliament of India that these companies would be vesting with the State and would remain as Government companies.

But what is happening today it to the contrary and disinvestment process has been initiated even without the obtaining the approval of the Parliament. "You may

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

say whatever you want to say but we would go ahead in our own way", is what the Government is saying to itself when this discussion is going on in this House. There is no voting at the end of this discussion. So the Government cannot later on claim that they have sought and obtained the permission from the Parliament.

You have forgotten that the Government at the Centre has been formed after forging an alliance with your alliance partners. Your own NDA members like Samata, Trinamool, Shiv Sena and Janata Dal (U) are opposing this move. ...*(Interruptions)* Your own Minister from your own party Shri Ram Naik opposed this move stoutly in the beginning. He was contained when it was proposed that ONGC may buy HPCL. It is proposed to mobilise about 10,000 crore rupees to the exchequer by way of this disinvestment. Your own ally, the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch says that the pricing should be transparent and it will fetch more. Instead of going to the Accountant General to get his opinion, you are going to the Attorney General. The present Attorney General Soli Sorabjee says that it is not necessary to get the nod from the Parliament.

When this House had been given a solemn assurance that these companies would remain as Government companies, how can this Government go back on this. It is for you to ponder over. You may say that it is enough you have 51% stake to call it yours under the Companies Act. But what had happened in Maruti. 51% became 49% overnight. Now, 35.2% shares of these oil companies are sought to be sold. It is also reported BPCL may go into the hands of private operators. When so many contradicting information are coming, we are at a loss to understand the stand of the Government.

My only question to you would be whether or not you will give the due respect to the Parliament. Just because there is a difference of opinion among the alliance partners, you have shelved the Women's Reservation Bill. Likewise, will you stall the sell off? Will you stop the selling of the shares of these oil companies? The confirmed confusion that was there for the past six months has resulted in the non-take-off of the modernisation work at Mumbai Refineries at a cost of 1002 crore.

Maruti Udyog Limited remains a public sector company for namesake. Cut in jobs and retrenchment have become the order of the day. Can you give us a guarantee that this will not be repeated in both HPCL and BPCL in the near future? The Economic Times in its Editorial had recently stated that the *tu tu mein mein* attitude of both the Finance Minister and the Petroleum Minister rocks the disinvestment proposals.

These national assets have been acquired after legislating thrice and now you seek to sell them off without battling an eyelid. You also say that this sales will enable you to run them profitably. Financial papers have stated that these organisations worth much more than 1.2 and 2.1 billion dollars must be eased out responsibly. I would like to caution this Government to measure your steps. So far an Advisor has not been appointed to proceed with the disinvestment.

Hence I urge upon this Government to taken into consideration the views expressed by many people who matter and spell it out with concern in the interest of the nation. When you are sheding shares atleast 5% of them should go only to the employees. You should also take it upon yourself to protect the interest of the staff. Job cut and retrenchment should not be there. These viable oil companies must continue to run profitably. I want this Government to be very careful on this. There is a saying in Tamil *"sitthan pollu, sivan pokku"*. You should not act in your own way ignoring the saner words of well-meaning people. With this I conclude thanking the Chair again for giving me opportunity to participate in this discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. B.B. Ramaiah.

Mr. Ramaiah, one minute please. I would request you to listen me for a minute. I heard Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri C. Sreenivasan and one hon. Member from that side about the necessity of having the Parliament's sanction for disinvestment.

Shri Mukherjee was then Additional Solicitor-General. If all Members say Parliament's sanction is not necessary, then there need not be a debate. *Magna Carta* says no pie can be appropriated without the authority of Parliament. In that way, how can a public property be sold? It is a *Magna Carta*. Shri Mukherjee is all right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: *Magna Carta* is old document.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Shri Mukherjee is my good friend as he comes from my State. What can he do? He cannot open his mouth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No amount can be appropriated without the authority of Parliament. Ministers come here to present the Budget. They want the money to be appropriated.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is behaving like a pendulum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want your clarification.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Mr. Chairman Sir, you yourself is a very good lawyer. Give it as a ruling.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even a law college student knows that only the Parliament can sanction the amount or prior sanction of Parliament is necessary for anything, any public property.

I do not go by your opinion. Shri Somnath Chatterjee expressed so many opinions. That was different. Everybody knows, it is a common law, that the Parliament's sanction is necessary.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): I will give a detailed answer because Shri Somnath Chatterjee has also raised that point. But, Sir, there is just one point to remember. It is that if that is the rule, then the selling of equity, bringing it from 100 per cent to 51 per cent in one case of HPCL and bringing it down to 56 per cent in case of BPCL was also illegal and it was done in 1991 to 1993 without the authority of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am thankful for the intervention.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will give it in detail. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why are you putting a question? Are you encouraged by what was done then? Then, why did you go and take opinion? Why are you not placing it in Parliament? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I wanted your opinion so that the mood of the House can be known about the sovereignty of Parliament. Nobody has said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Our interest is now in their hands. They are behaving in this manner.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The Leader of the Opposition in the other House asked for the opinion of the Attorney General. That is how it was obtained.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. On the question of sovereignty of Parliament, you need not take anybody's opinion.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You are in the Chair. These things do not befit the Chair. If you want to argue from your seat, it is fine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I rule then that the authority of Parliament cannot be questioned outside.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: No, Sir. You cannot do like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The *Magna Carta* says that appropriation of money can be done only from Parliament.

You derive money only from the authority of Parliament. I rule that the authority of Parliament is there.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, you can rule anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No Member will say that this Parliament has no power. Is there any Member who will say that?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have started the debate under Rule 193 and the debate is going on. Let the debate go on. At the end, the hon. Minister will put forth the viewpoint of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you clear that view. As he has cited a number of opinions, something was passing in my mind, and I want to express that.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I am very grateful for your direction. I will deal with it in great detail in my reply with respect to you, with respect to Shri Somnath Chatterjee and every other Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Certainly, he will try to meet them but these are agitating everyone's mind. You cannot impute. ...*(Interruptions)* You are a specimen of your own. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. B.B. Ramaiah.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, there was a strong demand from many sections of this House-I am not saying 'unanimous'-that it should be done on the floor of the House and an opinion should be sought. They say that they have taken the Attorney-General's opinion but I say that now-a-days the *sarkari vakkils* are swinging like pendulum. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I said about the Constitutional principle.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: We have started the debate.

[Translation]

Somnath Babu has put forth his views very nicely.

[English]

Let the debate go on. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Shri Kirit Somaiya, are you a Minister? Let the Minister answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Now, the debate has started. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: The hon. Minister is capable enough to answer. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is only a Member like us. Let the Minister answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? Shri Ramesh Chennithala, please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, he is not a Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. B.B. Ramaiah.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Sir I would just like to go back a little bit on the history of disinvestment. It was started in 1991 and the Statement on Industrial Policy contains the following decisions:

"Portfolio of public sector investments will be reviewed with a view to focus the public sector on strategic, high-tech and essential infrastructure. Whereas some reservation for the public sector is being retained, there would be no bar for area of exclusivity to be opened up to the private sector selectively. Similarly, the public sector will also be allowed entry in areas not reserved for it.

Public enterprises which are chronically sick and which are unlikely to be turned around will, for the formulation of revival/rehabilitation schemes, be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction or other similar high level institutions created for the purpose. A social security mechanism will be created to protect the interest of workers.

In order to raise resources and encourage wider public participation, a part of the Government's shareholding in the public sector would be offered to mutual funds, financial institutions, general public and workers.

Boards of public sector companies would be made more professional and given greater powers. ..."

It also says:

"Bring down the Government equity in all non-strategic PSEs to 26 per cent or lower, if necessary; restructure and review potentially viable PSEs; close down PSEs which cannot be revived; and fully protect the interest of workers."

These were some of the basic structures on which it was started. When it started in 1991-92, it started with a small percentage of disinvestment. By the year 2001-02, the total disinvestment came to only Rs. 26,000 crore. The substantial amount of the investment of Rs. 2,74,000 crore in the public sector undertakings is a borrowed money. We feel that the Government has taken a policy decision to see how we should be able to review and strengthen the organisations in order to make the workers more productive and efficient.

Now, I come to some of the matters that we are discussing now. We are now talking about the disinvestment of BPCL and HPCL. In 1991-92, the total assets of the BPCL was only Rs. 1147 crore whereas in 2001-02 it was Rs. 8,545 crore.

The sale turnover of Rs. 8,841 crore has gone up to Rs. 42,294 crore. The profits have also increased from Rs. 400 crore to Rs. 2,204 crore. In the case of HPCL, in 1991-92, its total asset was only Rs. 1,372 crore. It has now gone up to more than Rs. 9,000 crore. The

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

sale has also gone up from Rs. 8,9000 crore to Rs. 45,000 crore. The profit has also gone up from Rs. 367 crore to Rs. 2,046 crore. Out of this, they want to disinvest 34.01 per cent of the HPCL stocks and 35.02 per cent of the BPCL stocks. Five per cent is also provided for the employees under stock purchase preference scheme.

Whatever disinvestment you do, it should be done in a transparent manner. That is very important. Also, we must have perfect expert advice to see how this disinvestment is done. We need a lot of transparency in which we have to see how the public sector disinvestment is done.

The second thing that I would like to say is regarding the utilisation of fund. As everybody has mentioned, is it to strengthen other organisations? Or, are you going to give this fund for meeting your social obligations? Today, we need a lot of assistance for the purposes of drought, health and education. These things have to be taken into consideration before you take up any of the projects. I am sure the hon. Minister will take all these issues into consideration when he takes the policy on this matter, and utilise the money in a proper way.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing disinvestment of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. This August House has discussed disinvestment not once but several times. I would not go in details but concentrate only on three-four points.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of oil and fuel is related to security and sovereignty of the country. I am sure, when these two companies were nationalised during 1971 our old experience may have been useful. The Parliament had approved their nationalisation in 1971. Therefore, if the Government decides to disinvest Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, it should fist approach this House and obtain its permission.

Most unfortunate thing is that the Government are disinvesting profit earning undertakings. Last time, when this issue was raised that at least the Government should give the assurance that. ...*(Interruptions)* Shourieji, please listen to me. What are you talking to Vijayji? ...*(Interruptions)** Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am listening to your concern on national security. ...*(Interruptions)* He was asking me that at what time this debate is scheduled to be completed. ...*(Interruptions)* He was asking only this thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, I request you to withdraw those words from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I expunge them.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have expunged those words.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Both of you resume your seats.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was telling something important to the hon'ble Minister, I did not expect a better language from the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I have noted what the hon. Member has said about security. I shall definitely reply to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: * ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: What are you talking? ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not used any unparliamentary word. If I have used any, you may expunge it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: It has to be expunged. You are not doing any favour. This is as per rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I would like to submit through you that the basic questions is about BPCL and HPCL. As I stated earlier that in view of the experience gained, BPCL and HPCL were nationalised in 1971 and the Parliament approved the move. The most distressing thing is that the Government are indiscriminately selling

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

off the profit making PSUs. When discussion was held on this issue last time in the House then there was a discussion for disinvestment of NALCO. When asked the reason then Shri Arun Shourie said that even though today it is a profit making company, it would become a loss making company tomorrow. It means that the Government are not interested in checking the mismanagement and corruption prevailing in Public Sector Undertakings. The Government have yielded to them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would submit that HPCL and BPCL's profit was Rs. 363 crores and Rs. 476 crores respectively during the first nine months in 2001-2002 and Rs. 903 crores and Rs. 802 crores respectively during 2002-2003. It means that HPCL and BPCL are among the most profit making companies of the country. The Minister of Disinvestment has identified 7 such companies after scrutiny. Five of them are foreign companies-Royal dutch shell, Holland; B.P. Amco, England; Aramco, Saudi Arab; Patronus, Malaysia and Kuwait Petro, Kuwait. These companies are interested in buying these 2 companies. This is a very serious question. If petroleum products are not under the control of Government of India, then it is dangerous from security point of view. Arun Shourie ji, you know that the hon'ble Supreme Court had issued a notice on 13 April. In response to a PIL, would like to read out.

[English]

> "HPCL and BPCL, which together command a 40 percent petrol market share, were nationalised through an Act of Parliament in 1970 and CPIL contends that disinvestment in these two companies could be done either by repealing or amending the Acquisition Acts concerned and there was no other way of going about it."

[Translation]

You are aware of the Standing Committee report. I would like to mention about the profit earned by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation since 1997. The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation earned a net profit of Rs. 701 crore in 1997 Rs. 901 crore in 1998, Rs. 1057 crore in 1999 Rs. 1088 crore in 2000 Rs. 788 crore in 2001. Its net worth was Rs. 4093 crore in 1997 and Rs. 5900 crore in 2001-2002. This is a major profit making company. Bharat Petroleum Corporation has given return of more than 21% on their networth during the last five years. I would like to submit through you that there are about 10 major companies in our country viz. Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Reliance Petroleum, State Bank of India, Reliance Industries, Oil and Natural Gas, Steel Authority of India, Hindustan Lever. BPCL and HPCL are the second and third most profit earning companies after Indian Oil Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to know as to under which circumstances the Government are eager to disinvest these profit making PSUs. The Government are not taking effective measures to turn loss making enterprises into profit earning companies. We are selling off profit earning PSUs in a hurry. What is the real problem? I would like to draw your kind attention that budget deficit is growing constantly. In 2001-2002 budget deficit was Rs. 1,40,000 crores. During 2002-2003 the deficit rose to Rs. 1,43,000 crore. During 2003-2004 it was Rs. 1,53,000 crores. The Government have not said anything about utilising the sale proceeds of these PSUs after disinvestment. Probably this fund will be utilised to meet the budget deficit. I would like to state that the Government generally, levy taxes to meet the budget deficit but the Government takes loans apprehending danger of becoming unpopular. The interests accrue when this Government came to power in 1998, the domestic debt was Rs. 3 lakh 89 thousand crores and in December 2000 it rose to Rs. 10 lakh, 37 thousand crores. What are our priorities? For what purpose disinvestment is being done? is it for the welfare of agriculture, Health, Unemployment, education or which are the sectors where you can inrest that collected amount to strengthen those sectors in the country. I want to state that no reply has been given in this regard so far in this august House. If we go through the budget speeches of last 3-4 years it would be seen that the non-plan expenditure is continuously increasing. In this context if one rupee is spent to a common man then 3 rupees are spent in sending the money through the complicated set up. In this way there is no ratio in our country. The Government are not making serious efforts to check this infructuous expenditure it is a very serious matter. The most important factor is that PBCL and HPCL also work in the social sector. I am a political worker so I am conversant with their work. These companies adopt some villages. They also work in tribal areas. If this sector is privatised then how can you expect that these companies would safeguard the interest of common man in rural areas after disinvestment? We should not expect that these companies will do something for the social sector. Disinvestment is being done by keeping the country in dark. There should be transparency in Disinvestment policy. The Government should state as to

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

what would be done by the money accruing from Disinvestment. Why the Government are so eager to disinvest the profit making PSUs. What will be the future of employees working in BPCL and HPCL. After privatisation their service conditions go out of Government hands and will be decided by the private sector. What will be the future of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

This cannot be done by keeping the Parliament in dark. Banks had been nationalised by Parliament. So it is the right of the Parliament that if any change is done, it is to be done by the Parliament and not by any individual.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sir, I will take only five minutes.

I have heard both the sides about the disinvestment of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and the Bharat Petroleum Corporation. I am not going into the merits of the disinvestment and whether it is good or bad. But, I am requesting one thing from this Government. The Shiv Sena supremo has given us a directive to oppose disinvestment of both the companies. About the plus and minus points, as I have said, a ruling Party Member has said that any Government doing business will not be doing it efficiently. Yet, I would like to tell the House that instead of appreciating the best work and excellent work done by your own Minister, hon. Shri Ram Naik, and instead of appreciating the achievements in this field, you are discouraging Shri Ram Naik for the good things which he has done in the interest of the country.

If it is done by any other Government, the previous Government when they were not handling the PSUs in a proper fashion, then we would have admitted that "okay, the Government is not doing it better". But, I can give a list of the good things which have taken place in the tenure of our hon. Minister, Shri Ram Naik where he has shown improvement in this field.

Secondly, I do not understand that when you have allowed private companies to enter into this field, then why are you so much aggressive to sell our own companies also. Let there be competition in both the companies. The customer will get a better price if the private field is there who is selling petrol at a lesser price. Then, we have to think about our companies, the Government companies and as to how they can reduce their expenses and give a competitive price. Competition is always welcome. That does not mean that because you are not able to do the business, you want to sell them.

For the last six years, it has been proved that we are doing the business in a very nice fashion. At the same time, we are allowing the private members to purchase the field, to have their own companies to extract petrol. So, it is not necessary for us that selling is the only solution. When it is handled efficiently and properly and if you feel that we have to handle it in a better fashion, then, yes, we can go with improvement; but we cannot declare ourselves that we are inefficient to handle this field.

As I said rightly, in the strategic business you have included only three fields. But we feel, my supremo Shri Bala Saheb Thackeray feels, that petroleum is also as important as Railways, Defence and any other activity. So, it has been decided by my Party not a allow you to do this. I am not challenging this. But, I will appreciate this Government for one thing. Under Rule 193 you have allowed this discussion for the hon. Members to express the views of the entire House. It was narrated that if you want to disinvest these companies, as per the rules you have to take the permission of this House. I am very much thankful to this Government that you, as a democratic Government, have allowed the people to express themselves. You have not emphasised on emergency to execute your decision. Otherwise you have got the experience of what had happened in the previous Government in Shah Bano's case; how they declared emergency, and all that.

We really appreciate our hon. Prime Minister. The government should understand the feelings of this House about this decision of disinvestment.

I am not going into the details or the merits of disinvestment. But I would only like to give a few suggestions. Basically, as I said, the Shiv Sena will be opposing this decision. When the supremo decides to oppose, you know how it happens. Previously the same Government said that Pakistan would come and play cricket in India, but when the supremo said that we would not allow Pakistan to come and play in India, the Government withdrew their decision.

16.00 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

So, the power of my supremo is known to the entire nation and world. ...*(Interruptions)* So, the supremo has

taken a decision that in the interest of lakhs of people and families, it is not necessary....

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paranjpe, we have decided that this discussion will continue after the next discussion is over.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, I will take only two minutes. I am concluding. I am not giving a long lecture like others do.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, you can talk about the supremo. There is no problem.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, only supremo has allowed him five minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: I am not going into figures-what is profit and what is loss. It is not a question of arithmetic; it is a question of feelings of lakhs of workers and their families. In the interest of nation, we prefer that this Department or this petroleum industry should remain with the Government and should not go into the hands of some private people who will be dictating their terms to the nation. So, in the interest of nation, it is a must that we do not sell these companies definitely.

It was said why the Government is selling only profit-making companies. My only humble request to you is that-if you can do it-when you are asking for bidding of a profit-making company, attach two loss making companies also with that bidding so that the one who is purchasing a profit-making company must shoulder the responsibility of purchasing two loss-making companies. Then, they should show the efficiency of private sector. Anybody can run a profit-making company in profit, but if after privatisation, they can bring a loss-making company into profits, the nation will understand the advantages of privatisation. So, in future when you are asking for bidding of a profit-making company, my request or suggestion would be to attach two loss-making companies with it. So, it should be package deal that if you want to purcahse this profit-making company, you also have to purchase these two loss-making companies and then only, you are allowed to bid for this profit-making company. If it is possible to do this, it will be a very nice change.

Secondly, we have learned one thing from our experience of Hotel Centaur. When anybody purchases any company, he should be compulsorily asked, or an agreement should be made, that he will not sell that company within next five years. So, that condition should come. The second condition in bidding should come that he will not retrench the staff for a minimum period of three years, that he will not have any wage revision for a minimum of three years and that he can give voluntary retirement on the basis of Government's scheme. So, ultimately, we have to protect the interest of a common worker. At the time of supporting the interest and issue of financial support to the Government, our basic need or basic responsibility is to support the common worker not only financially but emotionally also. The emotion and the feeling of 23,000 workers in this field is that they are afraid of their jobs. Our duty as a Government is that if we cannot create more jobs, at least we should not create more unemployment *via* privatisation. Our basic duty is to protect their jobs. As I said, this is a very important portfolio and Government should keep it with them. That is why, we will oppose the disinvestment of both these petroleum companies.

16.03 hrs.

[English]

(ii) Indo-Pak Relations

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the discussion regarding Indo-Pak relations has been admitted in the name of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and Shri Prabodh Panda. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has requested me to allow Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to raise the discussion on his behalf. Since I have acceded to the request of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I now request Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition, to initiate the discussion.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to extend yet again the Congress Party's support to the Prime Minister in his search for a durable and enduring peace with Pakistan, but with all humility, Sir, allow me to say that the Congress' stand on dialogue with Pakistan has been finally vindicated. We only wish that the BJP-led NDA Government's policies in regard to Pakistan had clarity, conviction and consistency. The Government's stance has vacillated from one extreme to another, giving rise occasionally to the impression that we are responding to external pressures.

But, in spite of these inconsistencies, we have extended our broad and sustained support to the Government on matters relating to national security, to cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and Indo-Pak relations.

[Shrimati Sonia Gandhi]

But Sir, we are puzzled and the country awaits an explanation for the inconsistent and contradictory statements made by the Prime Minister; by the Deputy-Prime Minister; by the Foreign Affairs Minister from time to time on such a vital matter. Repeatedly we have been told that there will be no resumption of talks with Pakistan so long as cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir continues.

Here I would like to quote the Prime Minister on his speech in Gangtok, Sikkim on the 14th April where he said and I quote: "To create a conducive atmosphere for talks it is imperative that cross-border terrorism is stopped immediately." The implication here is quite clear. The Prime Minister here quite clearly implied that talks with Pakistan will be held only after it stopped cross-border terrorism.

But then, the Prime Minister extended his hand of friendship to Pakistan in Srinagar, on 17th April, with the following words. Again I quote: "We are again extending a hand of friendship, but hands should be extended from both sides. Both sides should decide to live together." Here there is no mention, as far as I know,-from all the reports that we saw coming out from Srinagar-of cross-border terrorism.

Then again, the Prime Minister at the very end of his *suo motu* statement in the Lok Sabha on the 23rd April said and again I quote: "Stopping cross-border infiltration and destruction of terrorist infrastructure can open the doors for talks." This is not as categorical as in Gangtok, but it is nuanced nevertheless. Therefore, are we now to understand that the Government has obtained firm commitments from Pakistan that its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism will cease? Are we to understand that this remains the pre-condition for the resumption of dialogue?

Sir, as I have said before, the Congress's stand has been all along clear and unequivocal. It has been repeatedly articulated. We have also been repeatedly attacked by the BJP on this very issue, and particularly, when elections were close. But, we stood by our principles all along because we believe that they are in the interests of our country. We have always said that the doors of diplomacy and the windows of dialogue-official or unofficial, formal or informal-must be kept open and active at all times and on all issues of mutual concern and interest.

Sir, India and Pakistan's futures are linked. We need much closer and much more vibrant cultural contact; contacts between our educational institutions; cricket, hockey and other sporting institutions; relationships between political parties and civil society; organisations; tourism; economic and trade ties; and cooperation in many other vital areas.

The Congress has also, for the past five years, been repeatedly advocating a transparent and vérifiable set of confidence-building agreements on nuclear and missile issues.

Sir, the Simla Agreement was signed in July, 1972 and it provides the essential framework, essential architecture for fostering bilateral relationship. It is, if I may be permitted to say a tribute to the noble instincts of Indiraji and her senior colleagues. Then, Indiraji offered a friendship pact to President Zia-ul-Haq. Subsequently, Shri Rajiv Gandhi travelled to Pakistan in 1988 and there was a brief moment of hope for both the countries. Among other things, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Ms. Benazir Bhutto entered, at that time, into an agreement on non-attack on each other's nuclear installations. In the early 1990s, the Congress Government of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao submitted to Pakistan a comprehensive set of confidence building agreements.

Sir, we supported the Prime Minister's Lahore visit in February, 1999 but we were realistic enough not to go overboard as the then External Affairs Minister did when he termed it as a "defining moment in Indo-Pak relations". We all know, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the defining moment was provided by the Kargil War, preparations for which were obviously going on, while our Prime Minister was being greeted in Lahore, After a long gap, the Government suddenly decided on the Agra Summit without much preparations, without any structured agenda. We watched the utter confusion with great amazement. We hoped for the best, but we were not surprised at the outcome.

The Agra Summit was followed by a number of cease-fires. We supported the Government, at that time too. Then, Sir, we had sabre-rattling from both sides, another escalating war of words. We had the attack on Parliament. We had gruesome killings in Jammu and Kashmir. We had unprecedented troop mobilisation followed by the usual *kafila* of visitors from abroad and, then, a pullback. We are still baffled as to what the purpose of *Operation Parakram* was. What exactly did it accomplish?

All of a sudden, then, the Prime Minister, once again, rolled the dice of peace from Srinagar three weeks back.

I believe that both the Parliament and the country are entitled to know why the Government conducted itself in such an *ad hoc* manner in such a sensitive area as India-Pakistan relations. What is the time-frame and the sequence that the Prime Minister has in mind for the resumption of this dialogue with Pakistan, and at what level are talks being contemplated? What steps are being taken to avoid a repeat of the Agra fiasco?

Sir, the past has been painful. It has been complicated, it has been torturous, but let us not become prisoners of our memories. The future beckons us. We have to make a new beginning, while protecting our interests. There is no question of partitioning Jammu and Kashmir. That is simply unacceptable. There is also no question of handing over Kashmir to Pakistan. That too is unacceptable. Let us be very clear of what we will not accept. Only then, we can move forward.

I will now end by assuring the Prime Minister of our support. But, the real question is whether the Prime Minister has the enthusiastic and total support of NDA allies on his recently declared vision; whether the Prime Minister has the full backing of his own Cabinet and party colleagues; and, above all, whether the Prime Minister has the support and the cooperation of his own ideological brotherhood.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of the Opposition while welcoming the initiative taken by the Prime Minister to improve Indo-Pak relations, broached several issues in her speech. I fully agree to all this. The entire country backs that Resolution passed by both the Houses of the Parliament. The entire country and both the Houses are bound by that Resolution that ceding Kashmir to Pakistan is out of question. There is no need to back track on that Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some may think about the partition of Kashmir. But it is not acceptable. Pakistan's stand is that it would never accept the line of control as the international border. I am not aware of any proposal made by India in this regard. As per the resolution passed by both the Houses of Parliament our only concern is to get back Pak occupied Kashmir. We are bound by this unanimous resolution. I do not believe that any pre condition can be made, in view of this. At the outset Soniaji talked about external pressure. But I want to tell her that the NDA Government has never succumbed to external pressure, nor would it do so any time in future also.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir Malhotraji should leave some issues for the Prime Minister as well.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am expressing the party's view.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Mr. Bill Clinton said in the Central Hall that he was responsible for calling the troops in Pakistan.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know. It would be better if we do not discuss this. When we tested the nuclear bomb, America and other countries applied sanctions against us. In 1993, when their government had made all arrangements for conducting a nuclear test, it had to be abandoned due to American pressure. Hence, it would have been better not to level this charge against us. This has nothing to do with external pressure-whether real or imagined.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pakistan condemned and opposed American attack on Iraq and its occupation. We have repeatedly clarified there is no scope for American mediation in Indo-Pak talks. The hon'ble Prime Minister had announced in this House that there is no need for any third party mediation. If America wants to involve itself it should pressurise Pakistan to end cross border terrorism. If America sincerely wants to root terrorism out of the world, it should begin by pressurising Pakistan to stop it from where it is being perpetrated. We can let them do this but cannot accept USA as a mediator in our talks with Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, she said that the Congress Party favours talks on all issues anytime. I want to know, whether talks should also have continued even after the attack on our Parliament. When in Jammu and Kashmir, they. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Talks had been deadlocked at Agra, then how are you restarting it. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the nation is attacked and our self esteem is at stake and such a situation develops, several measures have to be taken. They had supported these measures. They supported the downsizing of the Pakistani High

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

Commissions in both the countries. They also supported the idea of not holding any talks. The Prime Minister had sent several delegations to Muslim countries to make their stand clear on cross border terrorism. Several Congress leaders were included in these delegations. They should go though those reports. It has been recommended that no talks be held with Pakistan until it stopped cross border terrorism and dismantled terrorist camps. The delegation impressed upon the countries they visited to pressurise Pakistan. All the countries agreed to it. I believe that keeping in view the present situation, it will be dealt with in this manner only. This is not appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, she started with Shrimati Indira Gandhi while mentioning that she did this and that in 1982 and Shri Rajiv Gandhi did such in 1988. Our struggle has been continuing since 1947. At that time Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was the helm of affairs. She did not mention his role in this regard. I do not know why she did so. Thereafter Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri came. Why his name was not mentioned? In 1947, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. ...*(Interruptions)* Pakistan began this since its inception i.e. 1947 when Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was at the helm. First the tribals launched the attack followed by the Pakistani Army. The declaration of a cease fire was a mistake. Had the ceasefire not been declared such a situation, asking for taking back Pakistan occupied Kashmir as mentioned in the House today, would not have arisen. The war began during the time of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru itself. Thereafter came the 1965 war, when Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was the Prime Minister. Then came the 1971 war. Therefore Indo-Pak relations did not deteriorate since 1982 only. In the 1971 war, Bangladesh was created. At that time we held 91,000 Pakistani soldiers as prisoners. Thereafter the Shimla Agreement was signed. We had opposed the Shimla Agreement. We had said that we should not forgo our gains in this manner. But we were bound by the Shimla Agreement. Hence our stand that the Shimla Agreement rightly our wrongly signed by us should be honoured by Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when talks are being held with Pakistan, I would certainly like to mention two-three points which Pakistan has to keep in mind. Pakistan has to stop the proxy war directed against us in which about 60,000 lives have been lost. After losing four battles including that of 1999, they have to put an end to it. else there can be no peace between us. Like others, we too would like to utilise our resources on development of the country, on roads, water, power, education, and other necessities instead of spending it on defence. But, when our security and freedom is in danger then it is necessary to do so. It has been repeated again and again as also by her that the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and Shri Yashwant Sinha have expressed different views. I came upon an article of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. He also tried to say the same thing. His command on the language is very good. There is a sarcasm in his writing. It may be bereft of any substance but the language is good.

I was very surprised. In his article he criticised Shri Yashwant Sinha and extolled Khurshid Kasuri Saheb of Pakistan.

[English]

He writes:

"I have known Khurshid from the age of 20. We joined the same Cambridge college in the same year, 42 years ago. He is a man of honour. He is a man of his words. Let us, for God's sake, give peace a chance.

[Translation]

Referring to Yashwant Sinhaji he asked how could he talk about pre-emotive strike. Mr. Speaker, Sir, infact Yashwant Sinhaji gave this statement in the context that America attacked Iraq for three reasons-first that there was dictatorship, second that there are weapons of mass destruction and third that Iraq is spreading terrorism. Yashwant Sinhaji said that all the three factors are very much applicable to Pakistan. Can anyone assert that there is no dictatorship in Pakistan, or there are no weapons of mass destruction or Pakistan is not spreading terrorism? If, due to these very reasons, people justify America's attack on Pakistan, then what is wrong in saying that India's attack on Pakistan would be justified.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Launch attack immediately, do not make mere statements. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now, Pakistan has made announcement with regard to a few things. But my party as also myself are of the view that Pakistan has made such announcements quite a lot many times. It is very necessary for them to practice what they preach. Just now one thing has been asked that whether eliminating cross border terrorism and dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism are there or not

or should be or not the pre-conditions for dialogue. I feel that cordial environment for talks can never be created unless these conditions apply. Both the things cannot go together. We went to Lahore, I accompanied the hon'ble Prime Minister. I was born in Lahore and I went to see my old house there. I know the situation prevailing there. While we were in Lahore 35 persons were killed in Udhampur. He had rightly said that Kargil approach was being adopted there at that time. Pakistan should forget such kind of approach and do away with its ideologies-like "Hans ke Liya Pakistan, Lad ke Leinge Hindustan." No dialogue can be held unless they forget this ideology. They have raised a big infrastructure of terrorism, ISI has so many camps in various parts. The communist party people allege that they are operating from Bangladesh, 35 people were killed in Tripura. With such camps of ISI in Bangladesh, killings are taking place in Tripura, North-East continue to burn in the same manner and Kashmir would also remain under same conditions with attack on temples, or Kashmir radio station etc. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): 125 people of the ISI are languishing in the jails of Bengal.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Our hon'ble Prime Minister has taken a concrete and significant initiative. I feel that Pakistan should give a positive reply to such an initiative. We are in favour of peace. Pakistan pressurises again and again for a 'No war pact'. Shimla Declaration mentions about 'No war pact', even the Lahore Pact mentions so. Now if we really need something, it is the 'No Proxy war Pact.' They should declare that they would not make any proxy war. We are not satisfied atleast with the statement made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan yesterday. It is not sufficient. No mention was made with regard to the Kathmandu Trade Pact, nor of the WTO. People from Pakistan come to India to perform cultural programmes-singing etc. Everything is open for them here, but they do not let any Indian go there to perform anything.

Magazines of Pakistan are allowed in India, but Indian magazines cannot be supplied there. This one sided affair cannot go on like this. When the hon'ble Prime Minister offered to develop friendly ties between the two countries that did not mean the initiative to be taken only by us. Efforts from both the sides are necessary.

Sir, Soniaji has rightly said that mere declaration is not sufficient. It is also essential to prepare ground for cordial relations alongwith such declarations. They said that permission should be granted to Cricket and Hockey players of both the countries to play matches in each other's country. But this is something very easy to say, we should make concrete efforts to get it materialised. I have played many Cricket and Hockey matches. I have been particularly associated with sports, but this is all superfluous. We shall have to prepare ground for that.

Sir, people of Pakistan wish to be friendly with Indians. They treat us very friendly when we meet them, but they shall have to do away with the feeling of hatred against India in them and both the countries shall have to tread the path of peace for their own development. Initiative taken by the hon'ble Prime Minister is praiseworthy. And Pakistan should give a positive reply to this without any delay in this regard.

Sir, I feel that there can be problem if we make haste. I know that the Congress leader Shri Pranab Mukherji had given statements in newspapers, that Musharraf Saheb should be invited for the Agra Summit immediately, we need not talk of dictatorship and should not delay not delay in this matter. But when the Agra Summit proved a failure, it was he who objected in the newspapers as to why he was invited, why the ground work in this regard was not done? So, we should protect ourselves from such dual attack and support the hon'ble Prime Minister for the initiative he has taken. If we all co-operate, I feel that we can have some concrete dialogue. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very positive change in the Indo-Pak relations has been initiated on 8th April by the hon. Prime Minister through his speech in a meeting in Jammu & Kashmir, and an immediate response by the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Throughout the world, in this country, in Pakistan and in the whole sub-continent, the peace-loving people are looking forward to positive results; great hopes and expectations have been raised.

My Party has welcomed the move; while welcoming the move, it has reiterated the position that we should hasten slowly; adequate and proper preparations should be made, as has been made amply clear by the hon. Prime Minister; and they should also be appropriately responded by the Pakistan Prime Minister. Sufficient preparation needs to be made so that the outcome of the Agra Summit is not repeated.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

The Prime Minister of Pakistan has already elaborated eight bilateral issues which have been pending since the Agra Summit which were taken up at that time also, apart from important issues like the Kashmir issue and the cross-border terrorism. All sections of the House have condemned the cross-border terrorism. There cannot be two opinions on it. It should be stopped forthwith. The Pakistan Government also has a role in this. They should show to the world that they are sincerely interested in stopping that, dismantling the terrorists infrastructure, which was causing cross-border infiltration of terrorists and all other things. But we still think that the talk should start without any condition, even while condemning the cross-border terrorism. Out of the eight bilateral issues that have been pointed out by the Pakistan Prime Minister, one relates to trade. I am just mentioning what the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Shri K.C. Pant had to say while he visited Islamabad in April, 2000. He said that trade among the SAARC countries account for less than five per cent of the total volume and it was corroborated by the Pakistan President also. He had emphasised the untapped potential.

While throughout the world there is growing blocks, even the Europeans, who were engaged in hundred years of war and conflicts, came together and formed the European Union. I am not saying that a few years from now, we can visualise 2020 vision, South Asian Region. If that comes out, it is most welcome. But, at least the bilateral relationship between India and Pakistan, the two most important countries in the sub-continent, who are members of SAARC, should improve. Economy of Pakistan is in shambles. You know our economic situation. How our industry has slowed down, agriculture is stagnant and we are facing all these problems. We, both the countries, have to spend a huge amount on Defence only. Trade is very important area. Sports is also welcome and can be taken up. More important is, people to people contact.

Members of the Pakistan Parliament are currently visiting India today. They are meeting the Leaders of important parties. There is an assurance that the Indian fishermen who are still in Pakistan prisons, may be released and we may also have rail, road and air links. The Government of India has already announced that a very distinguished diplomat has been put there, indicating how India is interested in upgrading and strengthening the diplomatic ties. The continuation of the confidence building measures requires a lot of caution. It requires not only preparedness but also a lot of caution because there may be interested groups either in Pakistan military or ISI, who had in the past scuttled things. What happened only yesterday in Jammu and Kashmir? About 20 people have been killed. There may be attempts to scuttle this process because there are interested groups who do not want good friendly, neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan.

I am just making a mention to a very important commentary made in *The Asian Age* on 30th April. What does it say? The ISI-sponsored newspaper, *Khabrein,* a very reliable newspaper, a mouthpiece of the ISI reported on Monday that the United States was keen to place Kashmir under United Nations supervision. You may put in perspective what Collin Powell had been saying even in the midst of Iraq war. He has been saying that the most important agenda of his country is Jammu and Kashmir and it was published in the *New York Times* and was widely circulated. What has come out now in the ISI-sponsored newspaper, is that it says that the ultimate aim was to establish a nuclear free zone by getting India and Pakistan to dismantle their nuclear weapons and programmes. Before this, the Paper claims that both the countries will be asked to withdraw their forces from the LoC in phases with only a symbolic military presence being retained. The Kashmiris on both sides of LoC, according to the ISI organ, would then be asked to opt for total independence or given a choice to join India and Pakistan. It is very recent. On 18th April, the Prime Minister's speech extended the hands of friendship and on 30th April, it was published about the most dependable ISI mouth organ.

Now, today Mr. Richard Armitage is visiting and he will come here also. I do not know what discussion took place between our National Security Adviser, Shri Brajesh Mishra and Mr. Richard Armitage. A few days back, they had a meeting in London. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister actually what for the National Security Adviser is going to the United States. Right now, he is visiting the United States after meeting Mr. Richard Armitage.

Now, today there was news item in the *Asian Age.* The Prime Minister may disown it, if he so likes. It is about the American pressure on Government of India to initiate the peace process and further talks. Otherwise, a large number of people were totally confused. How could it be that a week back the Minister of External Affairs was speaking in one language and the NDA Convenor and the Minister of Defence was speaking in a very jingoistic language. After a few days, it was a total turn

around. According to the news item the Prime Minister says:

> "He has still opposition in the Cabinet by making it clear to his colleagues that the choice before the Government was to initiate the peace process voluntarily or wait for the Americans to send down the message through direct statements and pressure."

The Prime Minister may disown it, if he so likes. It is about only yesterday's Cabinet meeting that there is a difference within the Cabinet and the hon. Prime Minister tried to prevail on them. The game plan of America is well known. It is not that it is not known.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, your time is over. We have constraint of time.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am concluding. The imperialist factor is to be kept in mind. Yesterday, the Pakistan Prime Minister had spoken about a time frame of two months for adequate and proper preparedness. Is it possible? What is the response of the Government that it should not be years? It should be within the time frame of two months.

While we are supporting both the Governments' move to hasten slowly, it is a welcome move that Pakistan has specifically stated that they are interested in a composite dialogue, of course, including Jammu and Kashmir. Not only it is the opinion of the Government but also all party meeting of 4th of May supported the Pakistan Prime Minister. We want to know whether the Government has prepared any agenda or any time frame about re-calibrating the discussion to a successful end. But the dangers in the continuation is that there will be pressures. For the last five decades, America was not at all interested in the solution. At that point of time, whenever that issue came, there was a Soviet Russia. Now it is a unipolar world and they are threatening on small issues. So, their game plan will have to be understood. There may be move to scuttle the process but we should remember that the main responsibility-as we are a larger country and we are a democracy-is ours to see that we should be able to successfully come to such a conclusion that India do not fail in the offer that they have made. But the caution is that no third party intervention should be allowed on the relationship between India and Pakistan.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): A few days back the hon'ble Prime Minister of Pakistan Shri Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali talked to our hon'ble Prime Minister over phone. I am a little bit apprehensive about their talk. The President of Pakistan General Musharraf came to Agra and went back after holding bilateral talks. Even after that the incidents of terrorism took place many times in India. What is the status of Jamali Saheb there? He is on a very low rung while our hon'ble Prime Minister is a very big personality and India is also very vast. I do not want our hon'ble Prime Minister to talk to him let the Minister of External Affairs or any other hon'ble Minister talk to him. I am apprehensive about Musharraf because if he makes any commitment here then, will the terrorist activities be curtailed across the border? The I.S.I. agents of Pakistan are roaming in India. The bomb explosion that took place in Mumbai cannot be termed a small thing. It was by grace of God that we got saved only two persons lost their lives and 27 got injured. Their trainer had a Ph.D. degree. The person who engineered the attack on Parliament also held a Ph.D. degree. A large number of their agents are roaming all over the country. They possess currencies of different countries. Indian currency was also found in their possession. They are trying to financially denominate India by printing fake currencies. Pakistani terrorism is not going to end. Once on television. I saw occupied Kashmir, which is a part of India. We all plead for united India. Savarkar ji had also said that India should remain united. But I would like to say that a small part of India was occupied by China and a part of India was occupied by Pakistan during the Congress regime. Training is being given to all terrorists in that region which continues even today.

I have gone through today's newspaper today, discussion was to be held on this issue today. The terrorists did not kill anybody today, but their killing continued till yesterday or the day before yesterday. In this way 35,000 people have been killed in a span of ten years. There were 56,259 incidents of terrorism during the last ten years. Recently the Mumbai police detected a big conspiracy. They had set-up a lab to make weapons from cyanide in Mumbara near Thane, the constituency of Paranjpe ji. They have prepared a list of all V.I.Ps. of whole Maharashtra belonging to B.J.P. or the Congress Party and they had a plan to spread anarchy in whole India.

I told you that they have issued a V.C.D. cassette in which they have advised their cadre crusade against India. There was a bomb explosion in Mumbai after the release of this V.C.D. At that time you gave an order to the Home Ministry to investigate the case. Thereafter the State Home Ministry through the Central Home Ministry nabbed that accused in my constituency in Maharashtra.

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

Inspite of their activities going on even today, we are getting proposal to have a dialogue with General Musharraf and their Prime Minister. Upto when we will keep on trusting the members of Pakistan's Parliament who are coming to meet us. They are not trustworthy people. We can never trust them because they had attacked our religious places and several other places many times till date. Sometime back they even attacked Akshardham temple and other temples. Not only this, they had also attacked the Parliament of India on 13th December. Kashmir Legislative Assembly was also attacked. Prior to that. The Shiv Sena is of the view that no dialogue should be held with them and reply of their bullets should be given by bullets only. Bala Saheb Thackrey always says that nobody should trust them. Today we will talk with them but nobody knows which place they would attack in future because I.S.I.'s agents are present all over the country. The hon'ble Prime Minister tried many times that no war should take place. Our army remained on the border for eight months but terrorism has not ended on the border till date. There should not be any such danger in the country from religious point of view in the month of Ramzan and that is why the hon'ble Prime Minister had taken an initiative that there should be ceasefire in the month of Ramzan but even at that time there were attackes at several places.

I will urge the hon'ble Prime Minister, through you not to trust them. They attacked such a vast country. Today there was a bomb explosion in Mulund. The world-trade centre was attacked on 11th September which was a handiwork of Laden. Even today he is hiding in Pakistan after fleeing Afghanistan. The smugglers in Maharashtra who are financially supporting terrorists and people like Dawood are also hiding there. We preferred that America should not attack Iraq but it wanted to capture that country. America showed sympathy when Pakistan attacked. That is why we should not trust them. ...*(Interruptions)*

Many former Home Ministers, Chief Ministers and Prime Ministers tried to improve relations with them but they do not deserve this. I say that there is no use of having a discussion with them. On 13th December, when the Parliament was attacked, everybody said that we should also attack them and the people of the country are with the Prime Minister. That is why I say that there is no need to have a dialogue with them and they should be given a reply accordingly.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my view the people from all over the country want that relationship between India and Pakistan to improve and the people of Pakistan also want this but the people in power find it difficult. If a good atmosphere could be created for this and relations improve Samajwadi Party would certainly support it.

I welcome the hon'ble Prime Minister's efforts but it is very essential to have meaningful results. I said in the beginning, that people who are in power see their own interest first. Whether it is Pakistan or India. there is a need to create atmosphere for having good relations between both the countries and there is no other option except friendship between both the countries. An atmosphere will have to be created to have good relationship. It can be started at cultural level and through sports as well. The artists of Pakistan should come over to India and the artists of India should go to Pakistan.

Although I am against cricket because this is a sport of slave countries, yet if by this, good relations can be maintained then the cricket matches should be organised between both the countries once again. I made a suggestion two years ago but a few of your colleagues who are in power with you had opposed my suggestion. I said that we should have only one team consisting players of both the countries. Had the Prime Minister tried in this direction for having one cricket team consisting players of India and Pakistan, no other team of the world would have defeated it. A strong foundation of dialogue and friendship will be laid by taking such a step. The artists of the India should go to Pakistan and the artists of the Pakistan should come over to India and thus we could have bond between them at the cultural level and a strong foundation of unity and friendship can be laid. ...*(Interruptions)* Such an atmosphere should be created. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Khaireji, please listen.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: As it has been given publicity through newspapers that the hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the hon'ble Prime Minister of Pakistan Jamali Saheb going to have exchange of views therefore we will have to think over it seriously. The hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is answerable to this Parliament and answerable also to the people of the country. While the hon'ble Prime Minister of Pakistan Jamali Saheb is only answerable to the President of Pakistan, General Musharraf. There can be no comparison between you and Jamali Saheb. There can be no similarity. There will be no meaningful result of such a talk. The talks will be fruitful only when there is dialogues between hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal

Bihari Vajpayee and the President of Pakistan General Musharraf otherwise the whole exercise will have no meaning. ...*(Interruptions)*

If both are playing politics to save their chairs it is a different matter. Both Mr. Musharraf and Atalji's chairs are under threat. So in order to save their chairs they have to start dialogue. What is the use of a dialogue between Jamali Saheb and Atalji? What is the status of Mr. Jamali before him. There can be no comparison between him and Atalji. Let the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Yashwant Sinha go there. That might be according to protocol. It will be appropriate. In the very beginning you are making Pakistan a winner. Whenever a dialogue started, it was always India that began the talks.

17.00 hrs.

India always started the dialogue while Pakistan always thrust a war on us. India always won the war but Pakistan has always been a winner in a dialogue and India the looser. Now I would like to warn you although there are no other option sans dialogue and friendship. We also agree to this, yet the only way to this is to form a confederation of both the countries. Let it be a flexible one. A cordial atmosphere will have to be created between the two countries for the confederation. I want that a better relationship should be evolved with Sri Lanka, Bangaladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and also Pakistan and we should make efforts for this. Pakistan, Bangaladesh and India should make efforts to form a confederation and should create a cordial atmosphere for this. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Lohiaji also had said this.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Lohiaji had not talked of united India, he talked of confederation. Let it be a flexible one. Let the sovereignty of any country not be affected. There should be no such danger to the people of Pakistan or that of Bangaladesh. Let the people of Pakistan and Bangladesh be persuaded to do this. The people of India already understand this. Till the border is eliminated, there would be no meaningful result as far as relations between India and Pakistan is concerned. Efforts should be made in this regard and an atmosphere should be created for this. Mr. Prime Minister you said one thing that greatly distressed me and astonished me also. You said that this will be the last dialogue of your life. Why did you say so? Had you said that you would continue your endeavour throughout your life, it would have been a matter of great pleasure. This type of statement shows your disappointment and weakness which denotes that the Prime Minister is not holding the talk out of his volition, but under duress. This shows some pressure or some kind of compulsion. What is the compulsion, what is the weakness, what is the pressure? You should have said that you will work for the whole life in the interest of the peoples of both India and Pakistan and for the friendship between the two countries. But you said that it would be your last dialogue. It will be better if you make amendments while replying to this debate. Please make efforts, we will extend full support to you. You returned from Pakistan after making friendship between the two countries, while protecting the interests of India. In the end, I will say what is my apprehension. No pact against the self respect of India is acceptable to us. The entire opposition would extend its support to you for friendship between India and Pakistan subject to the condition that Indian interests are protected. Please abandon the idea of limited India. When we said that let there be a confederation, you were annoyed. Your Home Minister who is now the Deputy Prime Minister also talked about a confederation of India in a public statement. I was happy to know that of late, you also toed the line-the line of socialists. All socialists right from Late Lohia till date advocated the cause of a confederation. If we go on making efforts, one day certainly the confederation would be formed. No one can stop this. When East Germany and West Germany can unite, then India, Pakistan and Bangaladesh can also unite. We have no objection to this if honest efforts are made in this regard.

Our country was divided by a foreign power and if a foreign country with good intentions puts pressure or interferes in such a manner which is not against the interests of India, we have no objection to it. We do not have any parochial view in this regard. Please name the countries which are putting pressure and interfering. A foreign country divided our nation. If another country unites it, there will be no better thing than this. So, we agree to this. We want that let anyone do this. The friendship should be strong and there should be no interference, there can be no better way out than this. We are not prepared to tolerate the pressure of a third country on you. But we are apprehensive as to when this friendship will be established. A handful of hardliners of Pakistan will make efforts to spoil the atmosphere, but Pakistan will have to put a check on them firmly. On the other hand in our country also a handful of hardliners will try to torture the minorities and as a retaliatory move the Pakistani hardliners will create some or the other problem. The Trishul brandishing people will also provide them an

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

opportunity. So, these hardliners should also be put under check.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Where has he reached?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am speaking the truth, both will have to put under check. A handful of fundamentalists who are moving with Trishuls and making open announcements to perpetrate atrocities on minorities are saying that they will obliterate the name of Pakistan. Such people are spoiling the atmosphere. Can you say that you will obliterate the name of Pakistan. Lathi is essential. It is a support of old age. May God not compel you to use lathi right from now. ...*(Interruptions)* A kshtriya has a right to use sword. Mr. Prime Minister, the Samajwadi Party supports you. There is no party here which does not support friendship between the two countries. If you make friendship with Pakistan we will extend full support to you. All are unanimous on this. Please make friendship. So, please do not be disappointed that it will be the last dialogue of your life. Please make an amendment in your today's speech. We will be happy for that.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji your time is over. Please conclude now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV; Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have always followed your instructions, I am a disciplined member. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I fully agree with you.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, I want that there shoudl be a check on both the countries. I am not going to repeat the past things but I will definitely say one thing. Go there, our good wishes are with you but come from there with something but not loosing something. Do not return after giving away Kashmir.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I heartily welcome the initiative of the hon. Prime Minister. It is not only the Telugu Desam Party but the whole country, all the political parties, many peace-loving countries in the world including those in the sub-continent are also hailing the initiative taken by the hon. Prime Minister. This also includes Mr. Jamali.

India has two consistent policies-one is, there should be no third party mediation and the second is, cross-border terrorism should be stopped. Since Independence from Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru to the present Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, we have had a lot of experiences with Pakistan. Keeping in view those experiences, we have to act very firmly at present and with the conducive atmosphere, we have to make good preparations and decide at what level the talks should be resumed.

Now, what is the position of Mr. Jamali? He may be the Prime Minister of Pakistan but President Musharraf is the Army Chief; he is the CEO; he is the General; and he is everything. When the whole power vests with President Musharraf, what is the role of Mr. Jamali? So, for talks between India and Pakistan, the level should also be decided very cautiously. This is the wish of the people of this country. We have to maintain our dignity and decorum. India is a peace-loving country. We are maintaining good relations with the neighbouring countries. In this conducive atmoshpere, we have to maintain all bilateral relations and even cultural relations. We should have people to people contacts. We have to restore the air link. If we restore all these things, a conducive atmosphere will prevail between these two countries. Then we can resume Joint Secretary level talks. Thereafter we can proceed step by step. This is my suggestion to the hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India.

The bottom line should be that at any cost we have to control infiltration and cross-border terrorism. After the dialogue also, infiltration is going on. Recently, two or three incidents have happened in Jammu and Kashmir. Our military killed many militants and even the militants killed some civilians. So, at every stage, we have to proceed very cautiously with the Prime Minister of Pakistan or their Army Chief. Even in the conducive atmosphere now, cross-border terrorism is continuing and infiltration is also continuing. For resumption of talks, that should be the bottom line.

We have a lot of past experience of terrorist attacks in our country like the attack on the Akshardam Temple in Gujarat, the attack on our Parliament, the attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly etc. After the Prime Minister's visit to Lahore, Kargil conflict took place. After the Agra Summit, tensions mounted between the two countries and lakhs of soldiers reached the Line of Control. With this kind of experience, the Government should be very cautious in dealing with Pakistan.

Sir, all the people of this country and all the political parties in this country are supporting the Government

and the Prime Minister in the Government's efforts in resuming the dialogue process with Pakistan. Our country's interest is paramount. Our people's interests and our country's sovereignty should be respected at any cost. We will extend our full support to the hon. Minister in maintaining dignity, decorum and sovereignty of this country.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I must thank Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for her speech which was without any recrimination or incrimination, but was full of ruminations were punctured here and there because of subjective assessments.

Sir, in keeping with the quintessential traditions of India, the hon. Prime Minister had extended the hand of friendship and cooperation to Pakistan in 1999 and 2001. But look at the temerity of the then General that during the Lahore visit of our Prime Minister, he did not attend the function which was held there and that General later on became the President of Pakistan.

Sir, I would like to remind everybody, including the hon. Prime Minister, that we are dealing with a failed State, that is, Pakistan. Pakistan was built on hatred, incrimination and religious jingoism. It can never succeed and it can be quite evident if we read the history of Pakistan. We can see that out of 56 years of its existence, almost 30 years have been spent under military dictatorship, whether it was under Yahya Khan or Ayub Khan or Musharraf or their class. When there is no legitimacy for the power structure that has come up, naturally the dictator or the despot would try to bring in some extraneous factors to be in power and in Pakistan that is what is happening.

Sir, you will kindly agree with me that in an Islamic country there are two considerations. One is Darul Herb and the other is Darul Islam. Darul Islam is a country which is governed by the Islamic people under the Islamic law and Darul Herb is a country which they would try to take over by whatever means possible, to win them over to the Islamic traditions. Unfortunately, India is being targeted as a country of Darul Herb and the despotic rulers of Pakistan have been training, funding and sending the *Jehadis* for the sole purpose of making a Darul Herb country a Darul Islam country.

Sir, *Jehad* is not a bad term. In the Quran, it means, 'purification of a soul', a good matter, but it has been converted into a religious fanatical order itself where money is brought in by *Jehad*. There are five principles in *Jehad*. One of the principles is ***zakat***, where some money is given by the people for religious work and all that. In Pakistan, *zakat* is being utilised for funding *Madrasas* inside and outside the country.

You will kindly appreciate that at the time Independence, India had only 137 ***Madarsas***, now the latest enumeration shows that something like 5,325 *Madarsas* are there in India. Pakistan has some 50,000 Madarasas. Most of them have been funded by Zakat money which came through the Deoband and Wahabi Groups, which had splintered and gone to Pakistan and have been funding these Madrasas in India. You may not agree with me, but it is a fact. As I said, in a failed State, it is the negative aspect, which has been running the uppermost.

With your kind permission Sir, I would like to quote a paragraph from Mr. Stephen Cohen, Professor of Brooklyn Institute, USA. He said:

> "Pakistan was a case study of negatives. A State seemingly incapable of establishing a normal political system, supporting the radical Islamic Taliban and mounting Jehadi operations into India while its own economy and political systems were collapsing and international, religious and ethnic based violence were rising dramatically."

I am not going into the details of this. In this mindset, in this situation, we have to deal with Pakistan.

Sir, while dealing with Pakistan, I would like to quote an interesting factor. In the Thirteenth Century, a grammar and literary work was written by Vishwanath Kaviraj. It is called *Sahitya Darpan*. It was written in my State itself. Vishwanath Kaviraj has emphasised one thing about treaty and nullification of agreements. In that he has said:

"Allavdin Nripataha na Sandhi Na cha Vigraha"

Allauddin Khilji, Delhi Sultanate of Khilji dynasty, was the King at that time. In order to explain treaty and abrogation of agreements, that famous grammarian had said:

"Allavdin Nripataha na Sandhi Na cha Vigraha"

Do not have a treaty, do not cancel the agreements that you have made with them. Now, the present incarnation of Allauddin Khilji is General Musharraf.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

I would urge upon the Government itself to be very wary of the overtures that are being made by Pakistan, in whatever manner it is possible. One has to be very cautious.

I would be very short, Sir, because you are looking at me. I could make it out. But I would say two things and in two minutes I will conclude my speech.

There are two alternatives. One alternative is, sanitise 50 kms. to 60 kms. of the area in the PoK, that is, Muzzaffrabad, Dunki and all those places which are the breeding grounds of the Jehadis, the Talibanis and all those people who come to India; cross-border terrorism and infiltration that have been taking place. That is a milder term of this. Or, we can take over PoK, as our friend has said, "it is quite necessary that we should take over PoK immediately".

Sir, before I conclude, I would like to quote a famous statement of Caligula, one of the Emperors of Rome. Caligula had said in Latin and I quote:

"Ita feri ut se mori sentiat."

The English translation of it, 'Strike him so that he can feel that he is dying'. That is the message, which should be given to Pakistan.

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing a very important issue today. I have a lot to say but time is limited and I will try to be very precise. This is not the first time that India have expressed its readiness to talk with Pakistan on all issues but it is my considered opinion that if you want friendship with anyone then you will have to understand the character of that person, what does he desire and whether friendship is possible on those terms or not? The issue of friendship between India and Pakistan is not like a hockey match where loss or victories do not mean much. If we are able to reach at any result in our efforts to have friendly ties with Pakistan then we can go an extra yard to be friends with them but I would like to remind the hon'ble Prime Minister that India have been keeping on these efforts right since the time we attained independence.

I welcome the initiative of hon'ble Prime Minister. Definitely it shows his good intention and maturity that he has extended the hand of friendship with Pakistan but it cannot be accomplished only by playing hockey or cricket with them or having trade or organising cultural programmes. In a statement, Musharraf Saheb has said that Kashmir is political assets of Pakistan. And what will remain with them when this asset is removed from them? The relations between India and Pakistan would not improve unless Kashmir issue is solved. I am under no illusion and know that Pakistan is under pressure of its own people on this issue. There is no democracy in Pakistan. Pakistani army is more powerful than either its President or Prime Minister. ISI of Pakistan is more powerful than the President of Pakistan without the concurrence of ISI General Musharraf cannot move his forces even a inch. Hon'ble Prime Minister took bus to Pakistan but the Chief of Pakistan army did not bother to receive him. All are aware of it. With all humility, I would like to remind that hon'ble Prime Minister, that he always used to say that no talks with Pakistan would be held unless they end cross-border terrorism. Has it ended? Whether we are justified in extending the hand of friendship? It is not good if we are not able to command respect from the world. I would like to know, whether it is being done under any sort of pressure? The Foreign Secretary of the USA just said that talks between India and Pakistan would be held but gave no time frame. Who is America to say that? Do they want to give an impression to rest of the world that India and Pakistan would talk only at the behest of USA? I am not being suspicious about the intentions of hon'ble Prime Minister. I did not want to utter that but the language America uses gives an impression that we are doing this only under its pressure and not out of our own free will. It is pressuring us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I remember that at the time our forces were fighting and driving out Pakistanis from our territory, Secretary of States cam to visit India. He, even then, issued a statement that India have pulled back its forces. We may have been pulling back with strategic point of view but the message that went to the world was that we are doing so under the pressure of USA, to case the tension between India and Pakistan. Hon'ble Prime Minister, we are with you in your strategy, but I would like to say that we should not start negotiations under pressure. All the agreements with Pakistan-be it Simla Agreement, Tashkent Agreement are essentially the same. At the time Tashkent agreement was signed, Pakistan said that it would work as per the UN Charter. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Please let me speak for a while.

MR. SPEAKER: The debate has to be over by 6 o'clock and then hon'ble Prime Minister is to speak.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I am ready to sit down if you say so.

MR. SPEAKER: I will be happy if you go on speaking.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker Sir, Pakistan said that talks would take place under Tashkent agreement.

[English]

"Both sides will discourage any propaganda against both countries."

[Translation]

Talks were held under simla agreement.

[English]

"In accordance with the Charter of United Nations, they will refrain from the threat or use of force against territorial integrity." Secondly, they said, "Government will take steps within the power to prevent hostile propaganda against each other."

[Translation]

Pakistan made such propaganda after Tashkent agreement. It was also done after Simla agreement and so far as Kashmir is concerned, it is clearly laid down in Simla agreement that:

[English]

"In Jammu & Kashmir, the line of control, resulting from the cease-fire of 17th December, 71 shall be respected."

[Translation]

where is dispute then? It is laid down in Simla agreement that LoC would be that LoC only.

[English]

"Line of Control by both sides without prejudice to the recognised position of either side, neither side will seek to alter it unilaterally.

[Translation]

Where is the scope for dispute after that? Is it not possible that different Governments in Pakistan speak in different tunes.

MR. SPEAKER: Now please conclude.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before concluding, I would like to say that Mr. Bhutto had visited India following Simla agreement and in his interview to Shri Kuldip Nayyar of Stateman then, he had said certain things, which I would like to quote.

[English]

"What I say now is that you maintain your position and we maintain ours."

[Translation]

You can maintain your part of Kashmir and let us keep our part of Kashmir. With all humility, I would like to ask you to hold negotiations from this point forward. We need not talk by going further behind. The Simla Agreement of 1971 and the statements of their President show that they agree upto this point.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, now you please speak.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot go on like this. I will get confused. Therefore, I would like to submit that any initiative with regard to improvement in Indo-Pak relations should be taken after a lot of deliberation. It should not happen that you go for talks and return empty handed. If it so happens, it will be unfortunate. I would like to express the support of my party and myself for this initiative but since this concerns the honour of our country, I would like to say that before going for talks all aspects of the problem, all pros and cons and the situation at hand be considered and any further steps be taken only after doing all this.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, although word 'Atal' is added with the name of our hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajyapee, but he is neither 'Atal' (consistent) nor' Agrahi' Persistent with regard to the relations between India and Pakistan.

[English]

He is neither consistent nor present.

[Translation]

In his statement, in Srinagar, the most important thing was that he extended a hand of friendship but later on he did not reiterate it, we have been hearing since the

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

last three or four years that cross border terrorism should be put to an end and the entire network of terrorists should eliminated. This held importance as he did not say it. Now the entire world came to know that the Prime Minister of India has given a statement that they are looking forward for friendly relations and are ready to hold talks but he did not make any mention of terrorism as such, God knows whether he was under some pressure'. The very next day in a Press Conference in Srinagar, he mentioned about the conditions which he had not even talked about in his earlier speech. He mentioned about terrorism but did not talk about crosss border terrorism, the Agra Summit became a failure merely for three words-'cross border terrorism' There is no mention of cross border terrorism in the Lahore Declaration. It has been mentioned in it that both the sides condemn all the forms and manifestations of terrorism. And there is no mention of cross border terrorism. That is why we read in newspapers that hon. Prime Minister had to state that it was after the Kargil war that cross border terrorism started, although the entire world knows that cross border terrorism, has started since October, 1947 and India is vigorously facing this problem. All menace started in Kashmir since the day Shri V.P. Singh became Prime Minister and for the last 13-14 years, we are facing cross border terrorism. He forgets to mention about cross border terrorism in his visit to Lahore and then the Agra Summit is held on this pretext which also becomes a failure, but will these repeated statements of curbing cross border terrorism or eliminating the entire infrastructure of terrorists would have any significance. He forgets to mention it which gives rise to apprehensions, which ultimately lead to doubts and distrust. Sir, Jamali Saheb called our Prime Minister on the 28th on phone. Hon. Prime Minister stated before the House that he has condemned terrorism. But when he condemned terrorism, whether our hon. Prime Minister asked him that the word 'cross border terrorism' was added to it or not? So far as, I know, our hon. Prime Minister again forgot it. In fact we have forgotten to practice what we preach. Even our high officers say that they forgot and the spokesperson of our Ministry of External Affairs say that this does not mean that we have forgotten our basic ideology i.e. to check cross border terrorism and to eliminate the terrorist infrastructure. We cannot run our foreign policy like this.

I have apprehensions with regard to the visit of Mr. Richard Armitage to India. Our Parliament was attacked on 13th December. We said that Pakistan has made this attack. We asserted that the ISI and the Government of Pakistan have sent these terrorist to attack our Parliament, the centre of all political parties and their leaders. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra had just recently told me that he went abroad and also I went to foreign countries and told them that Pakistan had made this attack as we wanted to impress upon the people that Pakistan is behind all this. First we deployed our forces at the borders and then withdrew them, then later on we stated that our planes would not operate there and now we are asking for operating the planes. We also said that 'Samjhauta Express' would not operate, now they say that it would operate. Now that very bus, in which our hon. Vajpayee ji went to Pakistan, is parked at ISBT. Now they say that it would also be operated. Now the question is that what success have we achieved during this period. Actually we wanted to convince America that Pakistan is a terrorist country and terrorism starts from there only and it is Pakistan which has sent terrorists to attack our Parliament. If you see the CIA sight, I do not know perhaps whether your officers have drawn your attention towards that or not, but if you go through it, Mr. George Tenet, Director, CIA has given a statement before the US Senate Intelligence Committee that—

[English]

> "The attack on the Indian Parliament was by the Kashmiri Militants".

[Translation]

This statement has been given in the month of March of the current year. They do not agree that the terrorists had come from Pakistan. They say that the terrorists were Kashmiris. Now this is the outcome of your statements and diplomacy that the Director of CIA says before the Senate Intelligence Committee that it is not the Pakistanis, but the Kashmiri militants who have made this attack and I do not know whether the Government are aware of this or not. Everyone knew that Richard Armitage is supposed to come to India. He goes to the National Defence University, America and do you know what he says? I would request the hon. Prime Minister to listen to it carefully as he is supposed to meet him within the next 24 hours. He says—

[English]

> 'India and Pakistan, with a thousand miles shared border and a 50 year history of enmity.'.

[Translation]

He cannot see anything except enmity:-

[English]

> "India and Pakistan, with a thousand miles shared border and a 50 year history of enmity, have a situation that is truly frightening when you add to the mix nuclear weapons outside the system of international constraints."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether our Foreign Secretary, after going through the aforesaid statement, called the American Ambassador and asked that under which system of International Constraints should their nuclear weapons be added? We do not say anything, but keep on waiting that America would come and save us one day.

Sir, the problem is that no discussion on Jammu and Kashmir was held in the Security Council of United Nations for the last thirty three years, i.e. from 1965 to 1998. Not even two words were uttered in any proposal in this regard during the said period. On 6th June, 1998, for the first time Kashmir war discussed in proposal number 1172 in the security council of UN. That day we were threatened to make compromise with Pakistan, otherwise it would not be good. The recent developments in Iraq show that America is all set to go with such proposals and wait for the appropriate time to make use of them. The proposal, on the basis of which Iraq was attacked, was a 12-13 year old proposal.

Sir, I do not know but one proposal has also been given to us on the insistence of America and the guests coming here tomorrow, give statement in National Defence University just a day before their visit to India.

[English]

> "add to the mix, nuclear weapons outside the system of international constraints.

[Translation]

I would like to know why Shri Brijesh Mishra, who was once in the External Services, but now is Security Advisor to the hon. P.M., needs to make a visit to London, I do not understand whether those people have threatened him as to how he dared to say so, or he simply submitted? We want your reply on it, please do not forget that the America State Department has stated. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He may continue for a few more minutes. Please do not misunderstand me. We have fixed two hours in the Business Advisory Committee for this discussion and there are some more hon. Members who want to speak. That is what I was saying.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though US State Development has said that there is no substance in it however, in present situation we find that they have attacked Iraq and have possession over it. General Garner had told Pakistanies and not us as the said news first arrived in Islambad that if Atal Bihari Vajpayee did not resolve the problem till 2004, we would see as to what will happen. If General Garner would have said anything we say that he is military man, let him say but there is an old military personnel whose name is Collin Powell. At present he is the Secretary of State. As our Minister of External Affairs said about pre emptive strike to which our Prof. V.K. Malhotra was praising and on 31 March, Collin Powell gave statement that-

[English]

> "India-Pakistan is in the broader agenda to which the US plans to go back after Iraq".

[Translation]

He gives such statement on 31 March. Two days later Garner says so. After four days time George Tainet says something having gone there. There is one gentleman Mr. Black.

He is not the same fellow ambassador Blackwill who is in Delhi. The intention of US State Department is not good. That is why the names of all of the are Black. Ambassador Black is the coordinator for counter-terrorism of the State Department. Recently he has given a report. You see as to who he is.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

[English]

He is the coordinator for counter terrorism.

[Translation]

He is very important person for this task and recently has submitted his report to the US Senate. In that he has said.

[English]

"It is necessary to exercise the maximum restraint in dealing with Pakistan."

Department of State, the Coordinator for counter-terrorism Ambassador Black's official statement in front of the US Parliament, US Senate. He says, "Please exercise the maximum restraint in dealing with Pakistan".

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to know whether the Ministry of External Affairs had immediately called the American Ambassador and inquired about it. What does it mean. They are telling that they are fighting against terrorism all over the world and Pakistan is the biggest terrorist state and we will follow the policies of maximum restrain with Pakistan. Whether any one had asked such thing. Recently on May an interview of Sir Rob Young, High Commissioner Britain with C. Raja Mohan was published in *Hindu* newspaper. In that he says-

[English]

"We will continue to work with Pakistan to end cross-border terrorism".

[Translation]

Hon'ble Sahau Saheb have already, left the office he is in police. Just now he was telling that he takes some one in custody and tells him that he wants to work with him or work against him. They are doing with Pakistan or are favouring it or are opposing it or are pressurizing it. They are pressurising us while they are living in peace. So I would like to submit to our colleague Mulaym Singh Yadav, who resembles me that it is fine when you say that since foreigners have divided us so only they should come to unite us. I feel that it should be on one condition. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You please correct this. I said that if there is no interference and their intention is good then make them friends. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: That is why I would like to remind you that you also share the same legacy that I share. I would like to refer to a letter that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru ji had written to President John F. Cannedy on 24th April, 1963, just one month before his demise. He wrote.

[English]

"Intervention by third persons, if quiet unobtrusive and objective, might have been helpful.

[Translation]

You please tell me whether the type of statements that are being given by America are quiet and unobtrusive. Do you find neutrality in their approach. They are not so. Then you should not time and again reiterate that you will not come under their pressure. I admit that you are Atal but if such things are being done we are approaching them and inviting them to come to our rescue then I feel that there is impending danger over Shimla Agreement. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, at the end I would like to submit that since my time is up so whatever I have to say I will send it to the Prime Minister in writing. I would like to say only this that there is double standard. Vijayaji we have to understand their intentions but we will also have to change our approach. It is not that they should change themselves and you remain the same. It is very essential that we should hold discussion. I had told at that time that the Government have committed blunder, that the Prime Minister went to Lahore and the Agra Summit was held. I would like to submit that one cannot reach the peak unless Sherpa does not carry the load ahead of the climber. What are the people in foreign service doing if the Prime Minister had to the job of an Under-Secretary? It is quite strange that our Prime Minister is going with draft and is telling to remove cross and border. Is it the function of a Prime Minister? Is it the function of a Foreign Minister?* ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, my very last sentence.

[Translation]

The Government should remain firm that it will certainly initiate discussion however the dialogue will be initiated at the lower level and will continue without any hurdle and interruptions.

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*Expunged as order by the chair.

[English]

It must be uninterrupted and uninterruptable.

[Translation]

As long as the dialogue is going on, fight terrorism what over it is. America and Vietnam remained involve in the dialogue in hotel Majestic, Paris every Thursday from 1969 to 1975 and negotiation remained continue till they entered into an agreement, though they bombed each other. similarly negotiation is going on between North Korea and South Korea in Pyongyang for last 50 years since 1953 till today. Since negotiation table is located along border. North Korea does not have to leave North Korea and South Korea does not have to leave South Korea. Then negotiate with each other. If there is such negotiation then we will succeed. But with changing sides neither we nor they can sleep peacefully. So my submission is that if the Government want to establish friendship with Pakistan then the Government should initiate dialogue with Pakistan. Let us not forget the fact that if there were no partition we would have been follow countrymen. I can say with pride that I know Khurshid Kasuri for last 42 years and whenever I visit Lahore he is my host. Why should I not tell that since I know that follow for last 42 years so one can negotiate with him but they are making mockery of it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Any reference to the officers sitting in the official Gallery will be deleted and expunged.

17.47 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

SUCCESSFUL TEST FLIGHT OF GEO-SYNCHRONOUS SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE (GSLV)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE)*

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to give a good news to the House.

[English]

Sir, I would like to inform the House of the successful second test flight of the indigenously made Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota just a few minutes ago. The experimental communication satellite, GSAT-2, was injected precisely into its planned geo-synchronous transfer orbit.

This is a matter of great pride for all Indians. I am sure, the House would join me in congratulating all the personnel of the Indian Space Research Organisation and its associated research laboratories and industrial units for reaching yet another landmark in space.

The Minister of State for Space will make a fuller statement in the House later.

17.48 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

(ii) Indo-Pak Relations—*contd.*

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Thank you, Sir. On behalf of my party, the DMK, I wholeheartedly welcome the initiative taken by the hon. Prime Minister. We are the pioneers of the world peace. We are having very good relations with most of the countries in the world like America, South America, England, Australia and other countries. But, what about our relations with our neighbours? Our relations with the neighbouring countries are not so healthier ones.

Our major expenditure is defence expenditure. When our neighbours increase their defence expenditure, we are forced to increase our defence expenditure. Fortunately, naturally we are surrounded by sea on three sides.

Otherwise, our defence expenditure would be more. We can change our friends, but we cannot change our neighbours. I would request our hon. Prime Minister to continue this effort, and on behalf of DMK Party, I wish every success in this move.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri P.H. Pandian will speak. I want all Members to speak only for two minutes now. At six o'clock, the Prime Minister will address the House.

*Also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 7716/2003.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on Indo-Pak relations on behalf of AIADMK Party.

When the Prime Minister of Pakistan telephoned our Prime Minister abut resumption of talks, was it after the Statement issued by the Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandes, that Pakistan is a fit case for pre-emptive attack? The Minister of External Affairs also in his own way said that Pakistan is a fit case for attack without UN support. I want to know whether it was after these two Statements. We cannot forget the killings of *Pandits* in Jammu and Kashmir by ISI agents. A terrorist is still lodged in Jammu jail who had killed about 150 families of *Pandits*. He pulled them all out of their houses, asked them to stand one by one in one line and shot dead everybody. He appeared on television in 1999 saying that the had killed all those *Pandits*. Sir, that is continuing even today. Some of the *Pandits* were killed last month. When there is continued killing, this resumption of talk has come by way of a hand of friendship to India.

Sir, India is a peace loving country. We have adhered to the principle of non-violence and non-aggression and the policy of Panchsheel. The meeting of Pakistani President with our Prime Minister at Agra was discussed here at all-party meeting and also in this House. That has not yielded any result. Now, after all the happenings, the Pakistani Prime Minister, most probably with the consent of the President Musharraf, would have talked to our Prime Minister for resumption of talks, perhaps after the attack on Iraq by US.

Sir, we must understand whether it is a *bona fide* act of Pakistan to come for resumption of talks. Our Prime Minister, a great Parliamentarian and a Diplomat, as elected Prime Minister met the President of Pakistan at Agra. So, we must be careful in resuming talks. We are here to buy peace. What about the Line of Control? I want to know whether Pakistan has accepted that. What about PoK? I want to know whether Pakistan is going to come with that proposal for resumption of talks. What about stopping of activities of ISI? I want to know whether they will concede to the demand of India.

Sir, the most important factor is that the Government of India had given a list of wanted criminals to the President of Pakistan at Agra. I want to know whether they have conceded to hand over all the 181 criminals to India, including Dawood Ibrahim. Sir, you yourself hail from Mumbai. The accused in Mumbai bomb blast case, Dawood Ibrahim, is still at large. He has not been handed over to India. When the property of Dawood Ibrahim was auctioned in Mumbai, there were no takers for that property.

Will the Prime Minister of Pakistan allay these fears and hand over all the criminals wanted by India? Has he agreed to hand over them to India? They should be dealt with according to law. Dubai has handed over some of the wanted criminals. This issue must be on the top of the agenda.

Give me two minutes Sir. It is an international issue. It is not a local issue. Even for reading "Matters under 377" we take two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: I have now given you three minutes.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: It is an international issue, and a boiling issue. Sir, I will conclude in one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: I have no objection to sit even up to 9 o'clock, but the hon. Prime Minister has got another appointment.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): It is a very important issue. More time should have been allotted for this discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: For everything there is a time limit. Every issue is important. This issue has already been discussed four times in the House.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I will ask the Prime Minister to resume the talks peacefully, and Pakistan should reciprocate *bona fide*.

Hon. Prime Minister, you must be very cautious with the present Prime Minister of Pakistan. They are all having a diabolic attitude. They do not have the democratic attitude of our Prime Minister and the parliamentarians.

I would request the Prime Minister to negotiate on behalf of India with Pakistan and get peace for our country. We are buying peace. They are not buying peace. They are our aggressors. They are not going to stop the aggression. Their policy is not one of non-aggression. The aggressive attitude of Pakistan should be stopped, at least, by resuming these talks.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have already allotted the time. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given two minutes time to each speaker.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would like to complete my speech with in the given time limit. I am not going to deliver lengthy speech, I just want to express my apprehensions in this regard before the Prime Minister. Sir, I would like to tell the Prime Minister, if problem is resolved by dialogue, then nothing can be better than this. This discussion has been initiated after his statement on Kashmir and his telephonic conversation with the Prime Minister of Pakistan. I appreciate it. Since he has got the charge of Prime Minister's office he has tried to develop friendly ties with Pakistan. Even he went to Lahore by bus but in return Kargil war took place. You hold summit in Agra, but in return Kashmir Vidhan Sabha was attacked, Akshardham was attacked, the Parliament House was attacked, it means you have extended the hand for friendship, but had always been duped. I am just expressing apprehension he should make efforts for friendship, but he must be alert that he do not become the victim of a new conspiracy. He should be cautious in this regard because he is the leader of this country, and every person of country trust him. The House is unanimous in this regard and assure that we all will extend our support to him.

In rural areas it is being said that "jo ek bar galti karta hain, usai anjaan kehte hain, doosri bar jo galti karta hain, usai haiwan kehte hain, teesri bar jo galti karta hain, usai shaitan khate hain, aur jo bar-bar galti karta hain, usai Pakistan kehte hain. In this regard, I would like to know whether the country who do not take lesson from its past mistakes, is called India. I would like to submit to the Prime Minister to take lesson from the past, and then extend the hand of friendship. If you are sure that he will succeed in purpose with which he is extending hands of friendship with them, if he is able to check the cross border terrorism and if he is able to check the conspiracy of ISI in ruining the economy of our country, all of us are with you.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister has announced it dozens of time that first Pakistan should check cross border terrorism, only then dialogue can be held. But we are observing, cross border terrorism is still continuing and attacks and other terrorist activities are still taking place.

18.00 hrs.

The situation between India and Pakistan has not changed. The international scenario has changed as to US has attacked Iraq and ruined it, the scenario has changed. Now, suddenly the Prime Minister has given the statement and has again extended the hand of friendship, he said dialogue would be held so I want to know whether cross border terrorism has been rooted out or cross border terrorism has reduced or Pakistan too is thinking that dialogue would be held after cross-border terrorism is rooted out or it would be rooted out only after the dialogue is held? Why your stand has been changed? Why sudden change of stand has taken place? We are sceptical about it. Therefore, apprehensions are being expressed, as if it is being said under some pressure. Why your stand has changed and you had repeatedly given the statement that dialogue would be held, after cross-border terrorism is checked, and now preparation for summit are on. It is my first point.

Secondly, I would like to discuss what Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has said. Such an experienced person is saying that foreigners will normalise our relations. Foreigners have divided us, then how can the foreigners will normalise our relations. Dr. Lohia had said that there should be Indo-Pak confederation. At that time Bangladesh did not exist. Pakistan got disintegrated, and Bangladesh came into existence. I agree that there should be Indo-Pak-Bangladesh Confederation or dialogue should be held between three countries, if the relation between three countries get friendly, would only world power like that the Ino-Pak dispute should get settled and their relation may become friendly? How can you think so? You get very enthusiastic and think that foreigners will help us in normalising our relations and we would reach on an agreement. Therefore, please get cautions. We can not tolerate third party intervention. America want that terrorism should be rooted out from the world. All have supported it but in case of Pakistani terrorism, America adopts double standards. Therefore, we should remain cautions and this dialogue, process of dialogue has begin. I doubt that any solution would be sought from this dialogue. But if Prime Minister is going there to pass time, then dialogue should be held, but I do not expect that any good result would come out of this dialogue. Since mentality or attitude of Pakistan has not changed, I do not see any of its signs. Therefore we are not much assured from it but it is a question of diplomacy, if this diplomatic process is right then dialogue should be held. But you should clear the doubts of people of country as to why change of stand took place? Mistakes of past should not be repeated in this dialogue. With these words, I thank you.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The issue which you have raised over here. ...*(Interruptions)* I said three

[Dr. M.P. Jaiswal]

points, first, the interest of country should not get clashed, there should be no interference, intentions should be good and interest of our country should be taken care of. Even if Panchayat is held in village or Mohalla, third person speaks. Now, leave this narrow minded attitude ...*(Interruptions)* We are socialist. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, he understand, your view.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balia, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was listening to Shri Mani Shankarji. When he was speaking, I forgot whether he was the 'Mani' of the God 'Shankerji' or the snake. He was saying that the Kashmir problem arose during the tenure of V.P. Singh Government. Has he forgotten that the Kashmir problem arose at the time when the Government of G.M Shah came into power. I do not want to state as to who is responsible for the present situation of Kashmir problem.

Sir, time and again, it is being stated that the Prime Minister is under pressure. Just now I was listening to my friend Raghuvansh Babu. He was stating that all such acts are taking place under the foreign pressure. On one hand they say that foreign pressure will only create disharmony while on the other it is being said that the present dialogue is being held due to foreign pressure. Foreign pressure will not be there to maintain unity between the two countries. Actually there is no foreign pressure in this regard and we are stepping ahead in this direction. I listened to the leader of opposition and other Members also. All have welcomed the step taken by the Government and I would like to thank all the Members for it. Everybody has supported holding of dialogue with Pakistan. Definitely, when we talk of holding dialogue with Pakistan we should remember the history of our relationship with Pakistan. It should not be linked with foreign pressure be it a matter of Pakistan or Bangladesh. On one hand they insist to hold dialogue but on the other they advise to take every step with caution. But remember, both are not possible simultaneously. They are as much eager to know about the talks held with Pakistan's Prime Minister on telephone or why Brijesh Mishra went to Pakistan. I want to say that the policy can be discussed but not the strategy. Nothing would be achieved if every step is discussed here. Have faith in our Prime Minister. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has not attained this reputation in one day. The people who know his political life are well-versed with the fact that he can relinquish his post but cannot compromise at the cost of the unity and sovereignty of the country.

Sir, as I submitted, India and Pakistan both have 800 years old history. Ancestors of both the countries were same. They were having same civilization, culture and species. But it was because of the hardliners that partition took place and caused blood shed. I would not like to go into details of that but the reality is that when we talk of holding dialogue with Pakistan, people say that there should be war with Pakistan. If the allied parties of the Government or any other party say that war would solve the problem, then the problem would have been solved during the last four wars.

I have been the student of History. I found only two impressive personalities in the History. One of them is the President Sadat of Egypt who took over the presidentship after the death of Col. Nasir. At that time war was going on between Egypt and Israel. One day President Sadat went to Israel without informing the Israel Government. There he talked to his counterpart and Prime Minister of that country. He said when both Egypt and Israel are neighbouring countries and Egypt gives recognition to Israel, then why they should shed blood of their youth and why to waste the development funds on war and why not to live amicably just like good neighbours. He gave recognition to Israel. The other person I found impressive is Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Some members have mentioned about the Lahore bus trip of Shri Atal Bihari. I had submitted earlier and repeat this time that it was not merely a bus journey rather it was a journey of faith. It was the faith of 100 crore people, that India do not want war with its neighhours rather we wish peaceful and harmonious relationship with our neighbours. It has been alleged that after this journey, Kargil war broke out and thereafter Agra summit failed. However, I do not agree with it. The general, who refused to salute in Lahore, accepted in Agra Summit that he did not say anything like that. Such news have been published in newspapers also. Does it not prove that we moved a step ahead. I am of the opinion that we should move ahead. Some colleagues have supported it. I also support that we should enhance trade and cultural relations with Pakistan. We should organise sports and musical events in each other's country. This would definitely pave the way for further improvement in our relations. Let the Government take steps towards the friendship. We may fail to achieve our goal but atleast the distance to achieve the goal would be lessened. We may fail for thousand times but there is no harm.

Someone among the members may say that hon'ble Prime Minister may visit Pakistan but should not return empty handed. I also support that he must go even if returns like this, efforts can be made again. Government may go ahead to create harmonious relations between the two countries, I support it.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Speaker, Sir, there are speculations about the sudden changes in the attitudes of the two Governments. Whatever be the cause of these developments, on behalf of our party CPI, we welcome them. For long we have been pleading for resumption of Indo-Pak dialogue.

It is true that Pakistan's patronage to cross-border terrorism; its pronouncements in geared to terrorist activities in Kashmir; its patronage to revitalise the terrorist camps in PoK have complicated the issue. But in the midst of this atmoshpere, there is no alternative to dialogue. Dialogue should be there without any precondition. Leaderships of both the countries have to change their mindset.

Sir, the tragedy of the Indo-Pak relation is that it has got communalised. It is more true about Pakistan whose hatred towards India has become dominant.

To begin with, both the countries must restore proper status of the Diplomatic Missions in each other's Capitals. High Commissioners should be sent back to start their preparatory work for the meaningful dialogue at appropriate level. But the Government should emphatically state that "We are against any third party intervention."

We have had the experience of the Agra Summit. So, we have to proceed with full preparations. Without preparation we cannot proceed ahead.

With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been and are still unanimous on foreign policy. We welcome the initiative taken by the hon'ble Prime Minister. We should remember the past but it is inappropriate to drag on it. We should maintain cordial relations with each other and check our activities. We have always won the war but we must keep our doors open for dialogue. Dialogue is the best way of resolving various issues in the world today. And we must maintain cordial relations with our neighbourers. People of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh want to solve the problems through dialogue. Due to Bangladesh, our relations with Pakistan became uncordial but Bangladesh is also no more our friend. We should have friendly relations with all our neighbours be it Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Pakistan or Sri Lanka.

There are two reasons for what has happened in Iraq. One is, it was not having good relations with its neighbours and the other was internal bickerings. Therefore, we should end up the quarrel and no such act should be committed which could affect our internal environment. If we succeed in this regard nobody can compete us. 13 parliamentarians of Pakistan are coming to India unofficially. Our parliamentarians should also visit Pakistan unofficially and try to reconcile the hearts of people of both the countries. Government has some limitations. Whosoever be the Prime Minister of the country be it Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. ...*(Interruptions)* Or Shrimati Sonia Gandhi will say the same words what hon'ble Atalji is speaking. Even Musharaffji will also say the samething as both of them have to safeguard the interests of their country. Hence, Government have their own responsibilities but we should make efforts to create harmony between the people of both the countries. I would request again to hold dialogue and a Union of people of both the countries should be set up.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate and thank hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on behalf of the people of Jammu-Kashmir and my party National Conference for his efforts to demolish the wall of hatred between the two countries. It is this historical personality who can accomplish this task. Issues can be solved only through two methods-through war or dialogue. Three wars have been fought over Kashmir. Only we can understand the ordeal we have suffered. People in huge numbers were killed, many became destitute. Distressed Kashmiris can be seen in Delhi, Jaipur and Chandigarh. To solve these issues, Prime Minister of India has extended the hand of friendship towards Pakistan. I hope they will accept it. All outstanding issues including Kashmir with Pakistan can be solved through dialogue. Some people may prefer war but then it is said that war is no solution. On the other hand when we talk about friendship, it is again doubted. We should not have a doubting mentality.

I would like to make a request to the hon'ble Prime Minister. Humanity is suffering in Pakistan. If he can stop the shelling and is able to convince all Kashmiri migrants, who have become refugees in their own country, to come

[Shri Ali Mohd. Naik]

back, then it would be a historical step. Apart from that negotiations should continue to solve all the problems. Your intentions are noble, you have declared it in Kashmir, I am sure that God will grant you victory. You will succeed and all problems would be solved. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask just one question from the hon'ble Prime Minister. He went on Lahore visit. We used to have cricket ties. We discontinued it due to terrorism. In the month of April, Hon'ble Prime Minister had said that unless Pakistan ends cross border terrorism, we will not talk to them. I would like to ask why do we are going to have talks with them? Their hands are blood stained, then why are we having talks with Pakistan? ...*(Interruptions)* We want assurance from hon'ble Prime Minister that Pakistan should stop terrorism in India. Whether India have now realised that Pakistan is not inciting terrorism in India and hence we are having talks with them. What reply you have if Pakistan makes such assertion?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all those hon'ble Members who participated in the discussion. There are some issues on which there is a broad consensus in the House. The issue of our relation with Pakistan is one such issue. There may be difference of opinion among us, but inspite of that, we all work together to achieve the goal and our last goal is to ensure the victory, glory, fame and unity of India. A number of old issues have been raised in the discussion. It started from Lahore onwards. But I do not accept any blame for going to Lahore. ...*(Interruptions)*

We have to live with our neighbour as a friend or whatever manner. But we should not lose any opportunity of building good relations. Our development depends on internal and external peace. We do not want to buy weapons for war and to use our resources to buy such weapons but when our freedom or integrity is in danger and we have to be ready to bear all costs and defend ourselves. I have told my Pakistani friends a number of times that we can change our friends but not our neighbours. None of us can get away from each other. We have to live here. Now one way of living together is to live like neighbours and friends and second way is to keep quarreling and fighting and give the world chance to laugh at us and take wrong way as a result of misconstruing the emotions of our people. Therefore we should be friends with our neighbours to the extent possible. That is why I went to Lahore. It would be wrong to say that no home work was prepared before the visit. This charge has also been made about the Agra talks. What does it mean? The structure of the Government is very much intact and my Government has not made any drastic change in the Ministry of External Affairs. I think that my friends would agree that the clever diplomats pass the buck on their officers but the External Affairs Ministry protect its officers. We had full preparation, but in between the Kargil issue cropped up which was essentially due to power struggle between their Government and Army General. The Lahore declaration signed by the two countries said that dialogue would be held and all issues will be solved peacefully. We had agreed on it. The declaration was silent on Kashmir as in our discussion it was agreed that Kashmir issue is a tangled one so it be deferred and it would be better if we resolve other issues and go forward.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have the Lahore declaration with me. It says that.

[English]

"have agreed that their respective Governments shall intensify their efforts."

MR. SPEAKER: I can permit you to put questions after the Prime Minister completes. Now, you may please sit down.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: "at resolving all issues including the issue of Jammu & Kashmir."

[Translation]

He said that there is no mention of Kashmir. Now it is before you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am aware of it. But its form is there for all to see. Like Agra, Kashmir was not the Central issue in Lahore declaration also. Now it has been made so.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is the foremost issue, you have signed it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am referring to the talks that took place. When General Musharraf came

to Agra, during the discussion he did his best to have his way on Kashmir. Now he says that nothing of that sort took place. General Musharraf had to return with empty handed from Agra. I am being held guilty of not preparing any home work. Had there been no preparation, we would not have been able to successfully repulse the Pakistani attack in Kargil. We did not allow Pakistan to succeed in its design. Their domestic trouble reached an extent that their Prime Minister had to resign. They could not work unitedly. I am saying all this only to underline the fact that our efforts are well-intentioned. Sometimes it succeeds and sometimes it fails. Ceasefire has been declared a number of times. There is consensus that the two countries have friendly relations, especially, with regard to Jammu-Kashmir, but it could not be realised. Terrorist groups were split and differences surfaced among them. What is their condition today? I would not like to go in detail. Now it is being said that I had said that we would not take with them unless cross border terrorism is stopped. Of course, I had said that but my goal was to stop cross border terrorism. I decided to strive towards that goal and we worked so enthusiastically that, except a few countries, all countries of the world were of the opinion that the cross border terrorism be stopped. We succeeded to turning world opinion in our favour. I do not say that our war against terrorism will be fought by others but, it gave us scope for agreement and way out was provided. Therefore, we decided that as the elections have taken place in Kashmir which is such a significant phenomenon and which, in my opinion, should be properly assessed.

Shrimati Sonia ji did not make a mention of elections in Jammu & Kashmir. Holding of elections in Jammu & Kashmir has added a new chapter to Indian polity. People faced bullets and went for voting. All evil designs of Pakistan turned futile. I saw large gathering of the people that day. Though I had been to Kashmir earlier also. I have seen several types of welcome gathering in Kashmir but the meeting after the election in Jammu and Kashmir, wherein Mufti supported us and we welcomed him was unique one. That scene may have dumb-founded our neighbour country. Whether it was so or not, but it created some sort of enthusiasm in our hearts that the public is with us. The venom of communalism will not work and people want peace. Many people were killed during elections and many were injured. If one counts the total number of all those, one would realise that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have sacrificed a lot.

That day I felt that there is a need to take a new initiative. Meanwhile, an event of international importance took place, though I would not like to go in details over that. The way Iraq was attacked neglecting and rendering United Nations ineffective, compelled me to think that small developing and non-aligned nations need to think seriously about their future. I take it as a change in a new direction. US attack on Iraq and people's victory in Jammu and Kashmir-these two events, though look entirely different but these are linked to each other. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): It was BJP's defeat. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is not a matter of defeat or victory. We are always ready to face defeat and we get defeated that is why we are sitting here and you have gone that side. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: There was a time when we were sitting at treasury benches and you used to sit here. We would again occupy that place.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It hardly matters but I do not want to get involved into it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, that day I felt that there is a need to take a new initiative. In reply to his repeated querry-whether terrorism has been controlled, if I say that it has come down then he would say, it will not do, it should be totally controlled. Then I would say that all the terrorists do not belong to a single outfit, they are also divided. They are also playing different types of politics and all are not under one umbrella. It is quite a serious matter if it is so, but reality is different. We got a hint that there is a wave of change and the people of Jammu and Kashmir have given a befitting reply. I found it was right time to improve our relations provided Pakistan stops cross-border terrorism and destroys terrorists camps which have come up there. It is just a rehearsal and the talks are yet to start. When I had telephonic talk with the Prime Minister of Pakistan he invited me to play hockey in Pakistan. Then I told him that he had been a good player of hockey. I know that he has captained Pakistani Team and used to select his player. I asked him what will be the reaction in a situation when a hockey match between India and Pakistan is being witnessed by the entire town and meanwhile the news spreads that terrorists have massacred 50 innocent men, women and children in Jammu? What shall be the reaction to this? Will it create friendship? Therefore, I told that first terrorism should be stopped. I do not want to repeat what he said but he told that they are also fed up of this terrorism, and that they are fighting terrorism in their country, now we would

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

fight it out unitedly. Only after that, we through upon the idea of exchange of views. I would assure the apprehending Members that we will definitely tread the path cautiously.

If we become inactive, take no step or initiative and sit idle it will not behove for a large country like India. India occupies a prominent position in the world. Everyone is aware of our feeling of dedication to peace. People have not supported Pakistan sponsored terrorism they have supported the elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Foreigners who came to watch the electoral process have realised that the people have expressed their opinion peacefully even in the face of bullets and the world should respect it. At least we should give there due importance. It is a beginning of a new chapter, let us extend it further. None wants to lose Jammu and Kashmir. I do not know how Soniaji has said so. Who says Jammu and Kashmir will go to Pakistan. No, it will not go. Can a person saying so can afford to stay here? None has said so I do not want to go into it. No one can divide Jammu and Kashmir. There are three parts, three separate divisions of Jammu and Kashmir. They have been staying together for the last several years and they would stay together under new arrangement also.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please tell what shall be the new arrangement? Is he repeating old theory of RSS and America regarding division of Jammu and Kashmir in three parts i.e. Laddakh, Kashmir and Jammu?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What is he saying?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Does he want to divide it into three parts under new arrangement?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mulayam Singh ji, you do not leave your old habit. Dr. Lohia had advocated for confederation. Neither the confederation took place that time nor it is possible now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am telling today in the House that if there can be no confederation then there will not be friendly relations between both the countries.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is his opinion. My opinion is different. Though we have different opinion yet we are friends.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am welcoming his suggestion and support it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Not only small confederations, now countries of the world are coming together and we forming even larger alliances.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: He may please tell, whether it is his last chance or will he continue his efforts?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Entire Europe is coming together even old communist countries are joining them.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Is it his last effort or will he continue it?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is Dharma of present era. Now countries should not disintegrate but they should come together and work unitedly for economic development.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That is right.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I am also with him.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Even comrade is with us.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Does he not want.

[English]

Do you not want my support.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If Ramdas Athawale is with him, then there is no need for anyone else.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If Athawale is with him, whole public is with him.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Some more questions were raised. Pakistan is suggesting of de-nuclearisation of South Asia which is not acceptable to us. Pakistani Atomic Programme is India specific whereas our's is not Pakistan specific. We are not only concerned about Pakistan, we are concerned about our entire neighbourhood. We had adopted a nuclear doctrine and we have assured that we will not attack first whereas Pakistan has not made any such commitment. Not only that, it has refused to make any commitment to this effect. Then what is the meaning of 'No-war-Pact? Malhotra ji

has quite rightly said that it should be, 'No proxy war pact'.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, other questions were also raised. Not going in details, I would like to say that entire world is facing a crisis and in that situation if no concrete decision is taken then crisis will deepen further.

It is not an offence to seek peace. Though it is different whether we succeed or not. Who wants failure? But, with the apprehension that we may fail, we make no effort, is not good. A large country like Independent India cannot take this type of decision.

We had not opposed Simla Pact because it contained element of friendship. That time I had opposed it because it did not resolve Jammu & Kashmir issue.

We may have divergent views and no doubt these are. But when the world looks at India it expects us to speak one voice, that we would sit together and resolve our difference.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I convey my thanks to all and expect that the consensus arrived at this juncture would be maintained.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion is over.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 9th May, 2003 at 11 a.m.

18.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, May 9, 2003/Vaisakha 19, 1925 (Saka)

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